

# GRENFELL ANGER AT MAY, COPS & COUNCIL

THOSE WITH BLOOD ON THEIR HANDS MUST BE CALLED TO ACCOUNT>>PAGE 4

# Socialist Worker

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## TORIES ARE THE LIVING DEAD

# END THE ZOMBIE REGIME



### UNITED STATES

Detroit 1967—the Motorcity is burning

FIFTY YEARS ago Detroit, the Motorcity, exploded into a huge riot.

Young black people hit back at a racist police force and a system that kept them in poverty, in a revolt that lasted five days.

The uprising marked the end of the Civil Rights era and the birth of Black Power.

>>Pages 10&11

### HOSPITAL STRIKE



NHS strike takes on cost-cutting Serco bosses

HUNDREDS OF outsourced striking cleaners, porters and domestics and supporters marched between two east London hospitals last Saturday.

The Unite union members are fighting for a 30 pence an hour pay rise.

They are furious at how their bosses overwork them.

>>Page 3

### CLIMATE CHANGE

Can we save the planet? We ask Ian Angus

CAPITALISM generates environmental damage and climate chaos. Conditions that have sustained civilisation are collapsing.

But we have the power to survive by transforming the world, as author Ian Angus explains to Socialist Worker.

>>Pages 14&15



## THE THINGS THEY SAY

**'My life's work is in part dedicated to getting washing machines out of the kitchen'**

Tory Kirstie Allsopp on her essential ambitions

**'For many who work in it, the gig economy is a blessing'**

The Daily Mail says workers love job insecurity

**'Apologies to both'**

Tory BBC radio presenter Nick Robinson after getting Labour frontbenchers Rebecca Long-Bailey and Angela Rayner mixed up

**'Privileged Cheshire boy'**

Robinson's explanation for why he made the error

**'Not forgetting they came out of it alive'**

Tory leader of Ipswich council's opposition Nadia Cenci tweets that Grenfell survivors complain too much—before she resigned

**'I'm worth it'**

Britain's best paid vice chancellor, Dame Glynis Breakwell of Bath University, defends her £451,000 salary after an 11 percent pay rise

**'Yes, a little tear at that moment'**

News of the general election exit poll left Theresa May neither strong nor stable



# Orange culture and heritage on display at flute band party

A FANCY dress party organised by a flute band in an Orange Order hall has caused outrage after it was won by a man and woman dressed as Adolf Hitler and Eva Braun.

Two children wore rags branded with a yellow star-shaped patch similar to that which Jewish people were made to wear in Nazi Germany.

Another entrant to a previous year's party organised by the same flute band dressed as the Pope and wore a noose around their neck, tongue lolling, to depict a hanging.

One competitor painted their face black and wore an afro wig, a straw skirt and bones around their neck.

Two men clutched a soft toy clad in a child-size Celtic football strip at their crotches.

The pictures were posted on the Whinhall True Blues Flute Band page and were taken at annual Halloween parties held in the Airdrie and District Orange Hall and Social Club in 2010 and 2013.

Posts on the page indicate that there



Halloween in the Airdrie Orange Hall

are "prizes on the night for best dress" and the administrator commended participants in the photographs, stating, "I can see in the albums everyone puts in the effort."

Ephraim Borowski, director of Scottish Council of Jewish Communities, said, "The meticulously planned industrialised murder of six million people solely on the grounds of their ethnicity is not a joke, and neither is anything that glorifies those who planned it.

"Racism, including racism against Jewish people—antisemitism—must always be condemned in the strongest terms, and we would urge the Orange Order to do so."

A statement from the Grand Lodge of Scotland criticised the reporting of the party rather than address the issue.

It read, "The Grand Lodge executive and learned counsel are currently in the process of examining recent articles to see if there have been breaches of IPSO guidelines.

"We understand that the press has a role to play, but there is a difference between holding to account and pursuing a baseless agenda to attack and demonise our protestant culture and heritage."



Steve Bannon

**"BIG FAT Gypsy Invasion," "Big Fat Gypsy Jungle," "Big Fat Gypsy Hell".** No newspaper has overused the phrase quite as much as the Daily Star. So it is hardly in a position to complain when a group of Travellers moved into the car park of the sub-editing hub the newspaper shares with the Daily Express in Broughton, Lancashire.

## Why has the first phase of HS2 doubled in cost?

THE HS2 high speed rail line will cost more than £400 million per mile, making it the world's most expensive railway.

The estimate, commissioned by the Department for Transport, said the first phase from London to Birmingham would cost almost £48 billion, double the official figure.

The full scheme, with extensions to Manchester and Leeds, would cost up to £104 billion. The first 6.6 miles alone would cost £8.25 billion—or £1.25 billion a mile.



IN 2014 private contractor G4S repaid the government £109 million for over-charging on a tagging contract.

It was banned for six months from bidding for public sector work and placed under investigation by the Serious Fraud Office (SFO).

In March this year faulty G4S tagging devices produced hundreds of false alerts. In July G4S was given a new six-year tagging contract—while still under SFO investigation by the for fraud.

## Some public sector jobs pay quite well

FORMER Peterborough MP Stewart Jackson complained after the election that his golden goodbye was nothing compared to the PM's fired advisers.

He tweeted, "Hope Nick Timothy & Fiona Hill enjoy the £35k redondo for < a year in Downing St. I'm getting half that for 12 years service in Commons".

But don't start writing out a cheque to his benevolence fund just yet. There's news that he will be back on the public payroll before

his "redondo" even hits his bank account. He has been appointed the £115,000 a year chief of staff to Brexit Secretary David Davis.

A ROYAL Mint boss ran up a £45,000 expenses bill, which included a 50p packet of chewing gum and a 45p packet of tissues. Chris Howard, the director of bullion at the government-owned Royal Mint, spent £15,000 last year staying in luxurious hotels and £8,700 on entertaining.

Stewart Jackson

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## McDonnell locked out

IN ANTICIPATION of an election meltdown, workers at the Labour Party's London office made "exit plans" for Andrew Murray, Seumas Milne, Karie Murphy and others.

Come election night, party staff who still expected a Tory landslide began to implement a coup to remove Jeremy Corbyn's allies for good.

When results began to confirm that the exit poll was right it was too late for rebel Labour staffers to throw all the levers into reverse.

At midnight John McDonnell and others discovered that their electronic entry cards to Labour Party HQ mysteriously no longer worked.



**£300**

what accountants and business bosses are grabbing a day to decide on teachers' pay and conditions

**1%**

pay cap for teachers

## Pigs bullying Tory MPs

THE DAILY Mail newspaper "exposed" the "shocking scale of hard-left bullying" of Tory MPs last week. Apparently this is down to a "left wing hate mob".

It claims there has been "a surge in abusive attacks on Tory politicians since Jeremy Corbyn was elected Labour leader".

But animosity towards the Tories goes far wider. "Police officers are also reportedly bullying Conservative MPs," said the Mail.

"Guto Bebb, MP for Aberconwy in North Wales, has lodged four complaints to police. He said that one serving officer emailed, 'While I still have an a\*\*hole I will campaign every day to get rid of you as an MP'."

# Hospital workers take on the cost-cutting bosses

by DAVE SEWELL and NICK CLARK

**HUNDREDS OF** striking workers and supporters marched between two east London hospitals last Saturday.

Around 700 cleaners, domestics, porters and others, employed by Serco at Bart's NHS trust, ended a week-long strike on Monday and were set to strike again for 14 days from Tuesday of next week.

The Unite union members are fighting for a pay rise—and are furious at how their cost-cutting bosses overwork them.

Domestic assistant and Unite union rep Kaddy told Socialist Worker, "There used to be three workers to serve breakfast. Now there's just one. Most of us don't get time to take our tea break or lunch break."

"And we don't get to spend any time with our families, because when we get home from work we are so tired we just want to go to bed."

The strikers were noisy and exuberant, blowing horns and chanting, "Low pay no way" or, "The workers united will never be defeated".

## Profit

Serco won the £600 million "soft services" contract for Bart's trust last year and made an overall profit of £82 million.

Shadow chancellor John McDonnell told strikers their action was "sending a message to other workers that we don't have to take it anymore, that we can fight back".

The strike is winning broad support from a working class fed up of low pay.

One striker, Ibrahim, told Socialist Worker, "We've had lots of support from nurses and doctors, and the public too. We've had support from other unions, signing our petition and donating."

He added, "Most of them know



PICTURES: GUY SMALLMAN

JOHN MCDONNELL (left) joined a strike solidarity demo last Saturday



that their time to fight is going to come very soon. We started it, but their time is going to come soon and we will support it."

Jordan Rivera, an occupational therapist, told Socialist Worker, "Anybody in the NHS can feel worried

if they go on strike. It's important to let them know we support them."

"It's all about defending the NHS, and the cleaners and porters are just as important as anyone. In fact it's harder for them because they work for a privatising multinational—but they're brave enough to go for it."

And Sam Strudwick, another health worker, said, "I work in one of the hospitals so I've been out on the picket line every morning, and I've done a collection for them at work."

"It's a really important struggle—they're fighting for everyone in the NHS. They're not just fighting for pay, they're fighting for respect."

The strike is having a transformative effect. One worker said, "We don't have a say at work. None of us can tell them anything because

we are all trying to keep our jobs. But the strike means now everyone knows what's going on."

Serco has so far refused to budge, but workers are optimistic they have what it takes to beat the bosses.

Whipps Cross hospital domestic Guy said, "How long are we supposed to wait for change? Serco has a ten-year contract. That means ten years without a pay rise, ten years of over-work. Of course we have to win!"

Mile End hospital cleaner Małgorzata agreed, "When we stick together we can win everything."

Send messages of support to [bit.ly/2tMx1Uy](http://bit.ly/2tMx1Uy). Join picket lines outside Mile End Hospital, Royal London Hospital, St Bart's Hospital and Whipps Cross Hospitals from 5am. Collection sheet at [bit.ly/2uqKHYA](http://bit.ly/2uqKHYA)

## DEATH IN CUSTODY Da Costa family fund appeal

THE FAMILY and friends of Edson Da Costa have organised a fundraiser to help with funeral and legal costs.

Edson died last month six days after being stopped by police in Beckton, east London. The IPCC watchdog is investigating the death.

Edson's cousin Dileta told Socialist Worker, "We are hosting this special fundraiser for our beloved friend, father, son and boyfriend Edson."

"Something tragic happened and we are fighting for justice."

Edson's cousin Shellin



Edson's cousin Shellin (centre)

added, "We all need to come together to unite as one. We need to give Edson the send-off and justice that he deserves."

His family has spoken out about multiple injuries that Edson suffered as a result of the stop. They have been unable to arrange his funeral because his cause of death has not yet been established.

The IPCC has confirmed that police used CS spray and may have used "force"—but will make no further comment.

Unite for Edson—Sat 22 Jul, 2pm, Abrahams Care, Burke St, Canning Town, London E16 1ET

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## Manchester mosque in third fire attack

A MOSQUE used mainly by Nigerians in Manchester was set ablaze last Sunday after a four-year campaign of racist harassment.

The Nasfat Islamic Centre was in the Newton Heath area of Manchester.

Its secretary Monsurat Adebanjo-Aremu said, "Almost everything we had is gone. It's been burned to ashes."

She told the local press this was the third such fire incident in three years, and that two pig's heads have been thrown inside the centre during worship. A minibus was set on fire in 2014.

Adebanjo-Aremu said they feel "unwelcome in the community".

"It's quite unfortunate that we

are part of the community and somebody's decided to do this to us," she said.

Police are treating it as a hate crime. They believe someone forced open a window and put an unknown flammable substance inside.

### Faith

Local Labour councillor John Flanagan called it "an attack not just on the Muslim faith but on all of us".

He said that he had been inundated with offers to help, including of a space for Friday prayers.

Stand Up To Racism (SUTR)

activists met representatives of the mosque on Monday to discuss organising a response.

Nahella Ashraf of Manchester SUTR told Socialist Worker, "This is another example of racists getting confidence from taking to the streets."

"We must come out and stand in solidarity with the victims of racist attacks."

"And we need to stop politicians fuelling Islamophobia, and make sure that racism does not become normalised."



## ON THE WEB

Top five hits this week on [www.socialistworker.co.uk](http://www.socialistworker.co.uk)

1	Father of Edson Da Costa—killer cops need to be stopped
2	Durham TAs reject rotten deal
3	Marxism Festival vows to fight injustice—and for a better world
4	As Theresa May begs for help—don't let her hang on
5	'Worker status' is not good enough

# Grenfell fire victims take their rage to top cops and council

by ALISTAIR FARROW and CHARLIE KIMBER

A MONTH on from the Grenfell Tower fire, angry survivors and residents were set to demonstrate outside a Kensington and Chelsea council meeting this week.

The Justice4Grenfell group that called the protest said, "Tell what's left of the shoddy leadership of this rotten borough to resign!"

"Those with blood on their hands must be held to account. No cover up. We demand a people's public inquiry."

Grenfell survivors last week confronted the senior investigating officer of the police probe into the disaster.

DCI Matt Bonner was questioned at St Clement's Church, a short distance from where the blaze happened.

"I cannot tell you about the case as it would put the investigation at risk," he told the audience.

He was met with cries of "arrest someone" as the crowd grew increasingly frustrated by his explanation.

One man responded, "The authorities never listen. Because you are a tenant, you are classified as sub-human."

"The pace is too slow. If you need 1,000 officers working round the clock, find 1,000 officers."

"This is a national disaster, a national disgrace, a national tragedy."

When Bonner said the size and scope of the investigation was unlike anything outside of a counter-terrorism operation, several residents shouted, "It is terrorism!"

## Murdered

Another said, "This is mass murder. You didn't just burn down the tower. You murdered our friends, you murdered our families, you murdered our neighbours."

On the same day some 400 people assembled in the shadow of the burned-out tower for a vigil to remember the dead and demand justice.

Labour councillor Pat Mason told

## BACK STORY

Residents of Grenfell Tower are fighting for justice after last month's fire

- They have held large public meetings, vigils and demonstrations

- Many are angry at the Tory council which ignored warnings from residents over fire safety and was slow to get support to victims

- They are also angry at the Tory government which watered down and blocked fire safety regulations



NORTH KENSINGTON residents held a silent march and vigil last Friday

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

## Firefighters' union slams 'lottery' of resources for local fire services



An aerial ladder platform vehicle

THE FBU union has said that firefighters' ability to deal with devastating blazes such as Grenfell has been born a new energy," he said, referring to the inspiring organisation from local people that has stepped in to replace the council's absence.

In a letter to Theresa May, union general secretary Matt Wrack wrote, "In the aftermath of the terrible tragedy at Grenfell Tower we are aware that there are greatly differing standards and approaches adopted by different fire and rescue services across the country."

"We had hoped that one immediate response from central government would be to implement or establish an urgent review to ensure that the appropriate resources are available to firefighters attending such incidents in the future."

Such stories are an attempt to slur those fighting for justice and to deflect from the real issues.

Labour shadow chancellor John McDonnell was right last weekend to reiterate his demand that the people responsible for "social murder" at Grenfell should be held to account.

There are 125 aerial ladder or platform vehicles—with long ladders or platforms to reach fires in high buildings—in England.

He insisted he had no regrets about saying the victims of the disaster in west London were murdered by political decisions taken over recent decades.

But only 33 of them are

Wrack called the situation "utterly unacceptable".

He added, "We find it staggering that nothing has been done to address this grossly unjust postcode lottery of resources, and the fact that governments in all parts of the UK appear not to have even considered it is a disgrace."

"Citizens everywhere need to feel safe and confident that those in authority are taking their safety seriously. Anything less is, frankly, obscene."

Some firefighters have said that their efforts at Grenfell were hampered by low water pressure.

Privatised water firms including Thames Water have reduced pressure over many years in order to minimise the leaks from water mains.

There have been arguments about who should pay when new buildings and tower blocks require extra pumps and equipment to maintain pressure.

And there have been many warnings, including about fire safety.

## Homeless migrants fear deportation after trauma

POLICE NOW say that 81 people died in Grenfell, and the number is unlikely to rise.

But we will never know the true death toll because the authorities have refused to offer undocumented survivors or their families a full amnesty.

Rhea is from the Philippines and lived on the 21st floor of Grenfell with her friend Helen and her 12 year old daughter.

But, unlike Helen, 40 year old Rhea wasn't a registered tenant, having lost her legal right to remain in Britain in 2012.

She is now homeless and afraid to identify herself to immigration officials.

"I thought maybe they'd lock me up," she told the BBC.

Rhea arrived in Britain in 2010 on a one-year working visa with an employer, but this expired.

"I didn't have money to renew it and I couldn't find an employer as a solicitor was holding my

documents."

Charities and volunteers believe many unregistered people could have been killed.

They also say they have been in touch with other survivors like Rhea who are afraid to get help.

Last week the government announced a wholly inadequate 12-month amnesty for survivors like Rhea.

There needs to be a full amnesty.

Rhea said, "My family back home need my support. I

called them in the Philippines, and to hear them say they still need me is upsetting.

"That's why I was afraid to face immigration because they would send me home."

"I thought, how are we going to live? We are not rich, we are poor, we have nothing."

Many survivors believe that the death toll is much higher than 80. Some have been compiling their own lists and say it is over 100.



Some of the missing are afraid to identify themselves

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

## Fighting talk from activists



Moya Samuels

DEFEND Council Housing held a solidarity with Grenfell meeting last week in Camden, north London. Activist Moya Samuels argued for survivors "to be housed in Kensington and Chelsea" if they wish to be.

There needs to be a "full amnesty" for all with information about the victims of the fire, she added.

All council members who "approved" to cladding and safety. Those are

a sprinkler system being installed "need to be held accountable and prosecuted," she said.

And the inquiry should not be "narrowed to cladding and safety. Those are

panels. But they left exposed swathes of synthetic phenolic insulation which are rated either B or C for reaction to fire in British Standard tests.

That means that the exposed insulation is combustible.

claimed that the landlord's actions have resulted in a breach of building regulations and created "a known fire risk".

Pendleton Together Housing, which manages the properties for the city council, removed the

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## ANALYSIS

ALEX CALLINICOS

## Time ticks away for a collapsing cabinet

TONY BLAIR'S latest intervention in the Brexit debate shows him to be unusually self-deluding even by his standards. He still doesn't seem to understand that every time he opens his mouth he damages whatever cause he's supporting.

But his advocacy of the "option of negotiating for Britain to stay within a Europe itself prepared to reform and meet us half way" is also based on an illusion. There's absolutely no evidence the rest of the European Union (EU) would be willing to offer Britain a special deal to prevent Brexit.

The British vote to leave was part of a near-death experience for EU leaders. Faced with severe internal conflicts over the eurozone and refugee crises, they feared a wave of victories by anti-EU "populist" parties.

The defeat of the extreme right in the Dutch and French elections and a very mild recovery in the eurozone economy have revived EU leaders' confidence.

The dominant figure, German chancellor Angela Merkel, has moved very quickly to respond positively to the election of the evangelically pro-EU Emmanuel Macron as French president.

The Franco-German priority is to restore EU cohesion.

What this will mean is another matter. One commentator, Wolfgang Münchau, says the Germans will agree to French calls for a more integrated eurozone "primarily as a vehicle to deliver more austerity".

But EU leaders have little incentive to offer concessions to Britain that might reopen divisions—for example, between the rich western core and east and central Europe.

In any case, the nature of the exit negotiations under article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty put most of the cards in Brussels' hands.

Without a new trade agreement, Britain will leave the EU on 29 March 2019 facing new tariff barriers. These will hugely disrupt the City's business and break up the supply chains on which British-based multinationals rely.

British business, big and small alike, is increasingly openly furious about Theresa May's willingness to contemplate leaving without a deal.

### Brexit

Michel Barnier, the EU's chief Brexit negotiator, pointedly responded to Boris Johnson's latest grandstanding by saying all he could hear was a clock ticking.

An anonymous EU negotiator told the Financial Times newspaper, "Every day that ticks away gives the Europeans more leverage, because the Brits are not prepared and never will be prepared. So the reasoning is that in the end they will be on their knees. They will be on their knees because they will not be ready."

This points to the fact that, across the negotiating table, the Tory government is a shambles. The general election has left the Tories deeply divided. The Remainers believe that May's lack of a majority means they can block a hard Brexit, while the Leavers are trying to fight back.

But the Tories also know what would happen if the government fell. Andrew Rawnsley wrote in last Sunday's Observer, "Senior Tories tell me that Mr Corbyn would become prime minister if there was an election tomorrow."

The Financial Times reported a few weeks ago, "There is a general mood of seriousness and a sense that if we screw this up, a Marxist government steps into the breach," says one senior Conservative MP. Another says: 'The person holding the party together is Jeremy Corbyn. The fear of Corbyn is greater than any nuance in the Brexit negotiation.'

There's not much sign of this "mood of seriousness".

Chancellor Philip Hammond complained about other cabinet ministers leaking against him to the media on last Sunday's Andrew Marr show.

May herself has been reduced to what Rawnsley calls "the human sponge who soaks up all the blame".

Of course Labour itself is divided. Chuka Umunna leads a fifth column of pro-EU backbenchers seeking to block with the Tory Remainers.

But Corbyn and his shadow chancellor John McDonnell are quite right to want to get Britain out of the neoliberal single market. If they stick by their guns, Tory infighting may open the door to the most left wing Labour government in British history.



# Corbyn rallies support—but gives ground to Labour right

Mobilisations bring success but bitter Labour MPs still want more concessions, reports Nick Clark

**LABOUR PARTY** leader Jeremy Corbyn was out campaigning and speaking to big rallies and meetings last week in an effort to increase the pressure on the Tories.

Corbyn spoke to crowds along the south coast in Southampton, Bournemouth and the Tolpuddle Martyrs festival. He continued in the combative tone he struck at the Durham Miners Gala earlier this month.

Hundreds turned out to see him in Southampton Itchen—a Tory seat. His message to them was that Labour can win a general election "whenever it is called".

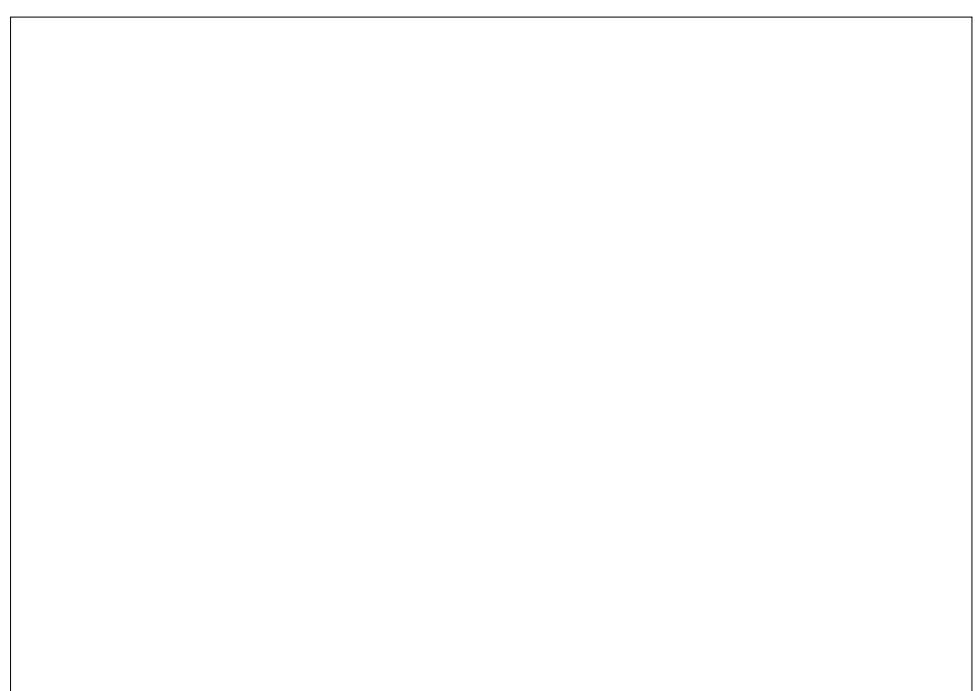
He attacked the Tories' "zombie government" and said, "If the Conservatives are unable to govern, they should step aside. Labour is no longer just the official opposition, we are a government in waiting."

### Programme

The speeches last weekend were part of a programme of general election style rallies to be held in Tory marginal constituencies across Britain.

They aim to replicate the huge events that drew in thousands of people to Labour's successful campaign in last month's general election. Corbyn was set to hold another rally in Telford, West Midlands, on Thursday.

Mass mobilisation should be at the core of a campaign to drive the Tories out of office. Yet some right wing



CROWDS AT Tolpuddle Festival (above) cheer Corbyn—but MP Gloria De Piero (left) isn't happy

Other MPs are trying to make Corbyn tone down his left wing politics and adopt more right wing policies.

They still argue that Labour can only win if it moves back towards the "centre".

### Range

MP Gloria De Piero said this week that the debates at Labour's upcoming annual conference should "reflect not only the broad range of opinion within our own party, but also the views of the people we seek to serve." That's a coded way of saying the politics on show should be further to the right than the majority of Labour's members. It's a rejection of the left wing manifesto that won popular support.

The pressure on Corbyn to accommodate to the right and prove that Labour is "fit to govern" will increase as Labour comes closer to office.

A sign of this came on Sunday when Corbyn's ally shadow chancellor John McDonnell rowed back from the left's position of abolishing student debt.

He told an interview that it is now an "ambition", not a "promise".

But concessions will never satisfy right wingers, who will constantly push Corbyn for more until they can get rid of him.

Got a story? Email ideas to [reports@socialistworker.co.uk](mailto:reports@socialistworker.co.uk)

## FIGURE IT OUT

Public sector workers have lost out since 2010

**£5,731**  
NHS specialist dietician

**£4,770**  
Firefighter

**£4,473**  
Teacher

**£897**  
NHS ancillary staff

SOURCE: TUC

## Arrogant Tories robbed our wages

**CHANCELLOR** Philip Hammond is not denying reports that he told his cabinet colleagues that public sector workers are "overpaid".

But a string of reports have underlined the pay cuts they have suffered due to years of curbs.

Using the RPI index of inflation, which includes housing costs, the TUC said that since 2010 workers have lost thousands (see right).

TUC general secretary Frances O'Grady said, "It's been seven long years of pay cuts for our public



Philip Hammond

servants. And ministers still won't tell us if relief is on the way."

The GMB union published research this week saying that the losses were even greater than the TUC's figures. It claims the average public sector worker is set to lose £13,000 by 2020.

It's time to win a pay rise for all. One big focus has to be the People's Assembly demonstration at the Tory conference in Manchester on 1 October.

Every union—and the Labour Party—should build the demo now.

# British state has ‘failed’ child refugees—and caused deaths

Two parliamentary reports released last week expose the deadly impact of Tory policies on refugees. The horror can only be stopped by granting safe passage to all, says **Dave Sewell**

**BRITAIN’S GOVERNMENT** has let down refugee children in Europe, and patrols it supports in the Mediterranean have led to more deaths.

That’s the conclusion of two new parliamentary reports that were released last week.

Former Labour MP Fiona Mactaggart and Baroness Butler-Sloss chaired the all-party parliamentary group on trafficking and modern slavery until last month’s election.

They say the government is doing “as little as legally possible” to help minors who are alone or separated from their families in Europe.

“The UK government has failed these children, while claiming it cares about child welfare,” they said.

The Calais “jungle” camp in France was demolished last year.

Refugees, including children, have returned and face “intolerable” conditions.

They are regularly teargassed by police, are forced to sleep in the woods and rely on volunteers for food, the report said.

The government closed down the Dubs scheme to bring some unaccompanied young refugees to Britain earlier this year.

It said the scheme helped ruthless traffickers exploit refugees. But the opposite is true, as the report pointed out.

Pulling the rug out from under refugees who thought they had a chance to come to Britain “feeds directly into the hands of the traffickers,” it said.

The European Union’s Operation Sophia to patrol the coast of Libya and turn refugee boats back is also supposedly aimed at stopping traffickers.

Britain is fully behind it, with British navy ships including the HMS Enterprise taking part.

But another report by the House of Lords select EU external affairs subcommittee said it has failed.

## Clampdown

Despite the clampdown, more people have travelled by the treacherous Libya to Italy route.

Some 181,436 people took the route in 2016, up by almost a fifth from 153,842 in 2015.

And more of them have died, with 4,500 recorded deaths in 2016, up by 42 percent from 3,175 in 2015.

Operation Sophia’s role includes destroying the wooden fishing boats used to smuggle refugees.

The report rightly pointed out that this has led to the use of smaller and more fragile vessels—leading



A FRENCH vessel taking part in the European Union’s Operation Sophia earlier this year (above). The patrols push desperate refugees (left) to take more risky routes to enter Europe  
PICTURES: CSDP EEAS/Flickr AND GUY SMALLMAN

to more deaths at sea. It called for Operation Sophia to be scrapped.

But its other recommendations involve convoluted and contradictory attempts to achieve the same objectives—and are equally doomed to fail.

The reports expose Britain and the European Union’s ongoing war on refugees.

And they pull away the shoddy fake humanitarian justifications politicians put forward.

But they both miss one crucial point—that the horror can only be stopped by granting safe passage to all.

## On other pages...

Motorcity is burning—the Detroit riot 50 years on >>Pages 10&11

## Stop the Nazis in Rochdale

ANTI-FASCISTS are preparing to protest in Rochdale on Saturday against the Nazis of Britain First. The protest is organised by Unite Against Fascism (UAF) and local trade unionists.

A Rochdale Unity Statement produced by UAF has won broad support.

Signatories include the CWU North West Region and GMB North West & Irish Region along with individual trade unionists and Labour Party activists.

Britain First hopes to use a child sexual exploitation scandal in the town to whip up racism and Islamophobia.

The UAF statement said, “Sexual exploitation is an appalling crime but it is not linked to ethnicity or religion.”

“Join us in opposing the fascists of Britain First.”

Assemble 12 noon, Saturday 22 July at The Butts, opposite Wetherspoons, Rochdale town centre. Go to [bit.ly/2t6doWM](http://bit.ly/2t6doWM) for more, email [northwest@uaf.org.uk](mailto:northwest@uaf.org.uk) to add your name to the statement

**STAND UP TO RACISM**  
Activists take action after racist abuse

by RICHARD ROSE

STAND UP To Racism (SUTR) activists mobilised last week in response to racist attacks in Manchester and Cambridge.

Around 80 children, parents, local councillors and anti-racists joined Cambridge SUTR’s “Solidarity Walking Bus” to a primary school on Thursday.

It was organised quickly after a Muslim woman was abused as she went to collect her child from the school. People who came to help her were also abused.

Kevin Blencowe, deputy leader of Cambridge City Council, said, “Attacks on people because of the religion or the colour of their skin are the lowest of the low.”

SUTR activist Zareen Taj, a parent governor at the school, vowed that Cambridge SUTR would continue to oppose racism.

Manchester SUTR also held a vigil on Sunday opposite Southern Cemetery in Chorlton, where a Muslim man was racially abused and punched in the face last week.

## Incidents

The attacks were the latest in a spate of racist incidents in both cities.

Nahella Ashraf, a leading SUTR activist, told the Manchester vigil, “I point the finger at the politicians and also some of the press who choose to criminalise the Muslim community collectively.”

Nahella suffered racist abuse earlier this year. She said mobilising helps support victims and defy the racists.

“It is very important we come out and show solidarity with victims of racist attacks to show to them that they are not on their own,” she said.

“We are the majority in Britain. We are the ones that stand together against racism, against hate, and we won’t allow those people to divide us.”

Stand Up To Racism will hold its annual conference in London on Saturday 21 October. To find out more or to get involved go to [standuptoracism.org.uk](http://standuptoracism.org.uk)

# Deal comes back to bite Trump after emails leak

Will new revelations start to unravel US president's tangled web of lies about lies, asks Simon Baskettter

**US PRESIDENT** Donald Trump's eldest son accepted help from the Russian government for his father's election campaign, emails revealed last week.

Trump attempted to shrug off his son's actions as naivety, praising his openness and transparency. "He is a high-quality person," was the inevitable tweet.

Trump Jr had a meeting with Russian lawyer Natalia Veselnitskaya.

Accompanying him were the president's son-in-law and right-hand man Jared Kushner and Paul Manafort, who was to become the Trump campaign manager.

Trump Jr was told that Veselnitskaya would provide him with information that could "incriminate Hillary", the Democratic presidential candidate.

The "high level" information that Veselnitskaya was willing to offer was "part of Russia and its government's support for Trump", said the email.

The meeting was arranged by Rob Goldstone, a British publicist working on behalf of Russian pop star Emin Agalarov. Agalarov's father, a developer, worked with the Trumps on the 2013 Miss Universe pageant in Moscow.

One of Goldstone's emails said that the information incriminating Clinton was "ultra sensitive".

## Meeting

Agreeing to the meeting, Trump Jr wrote to Goldstone, "If it's what you say, I love it, especially later in the summer."

In response to the scandal Trump insisted that his White House "is functioning perfectly, focused on HealthCare, Tax Cuts/Reform & many other things."

But he was undermined further this week when his plan to gut health coverage was abandoned after two Republican senators made it impossible to pass.

He was said to have been hunkered down in the White House, glued to cable television news.

## BACK STORY

Claims of collusion with Russia's regime have dogged Trump since before his election

- Trump is a threat to women, migrants, workers' rights and the environment
- But for the Democratic Party and anti-Trump Republicans, attacking him over Russia is much safer ground
- It is difficult to separate the truth from the speculation, but Trump is digging in for a series of major investigations

The whole thing is a confusing and mysterious mess. The emails may be a "smoking gun" but it is not clear who has actually been shot.

The episode may be a "nothing-burger", as Trump's backers claim, or a whopper of a scandal.

## Scandals

Trump's ability to lie about even his previous lies means that the scandals do have the potential to destabilise him.

Trump's lawyers have now hired lawyers in the run up to various investigations into what did or didn't happen.

Then Trump went to France to hug its president Emmanuel Macron while they both looked at weapons to celebrate Bastille Day.

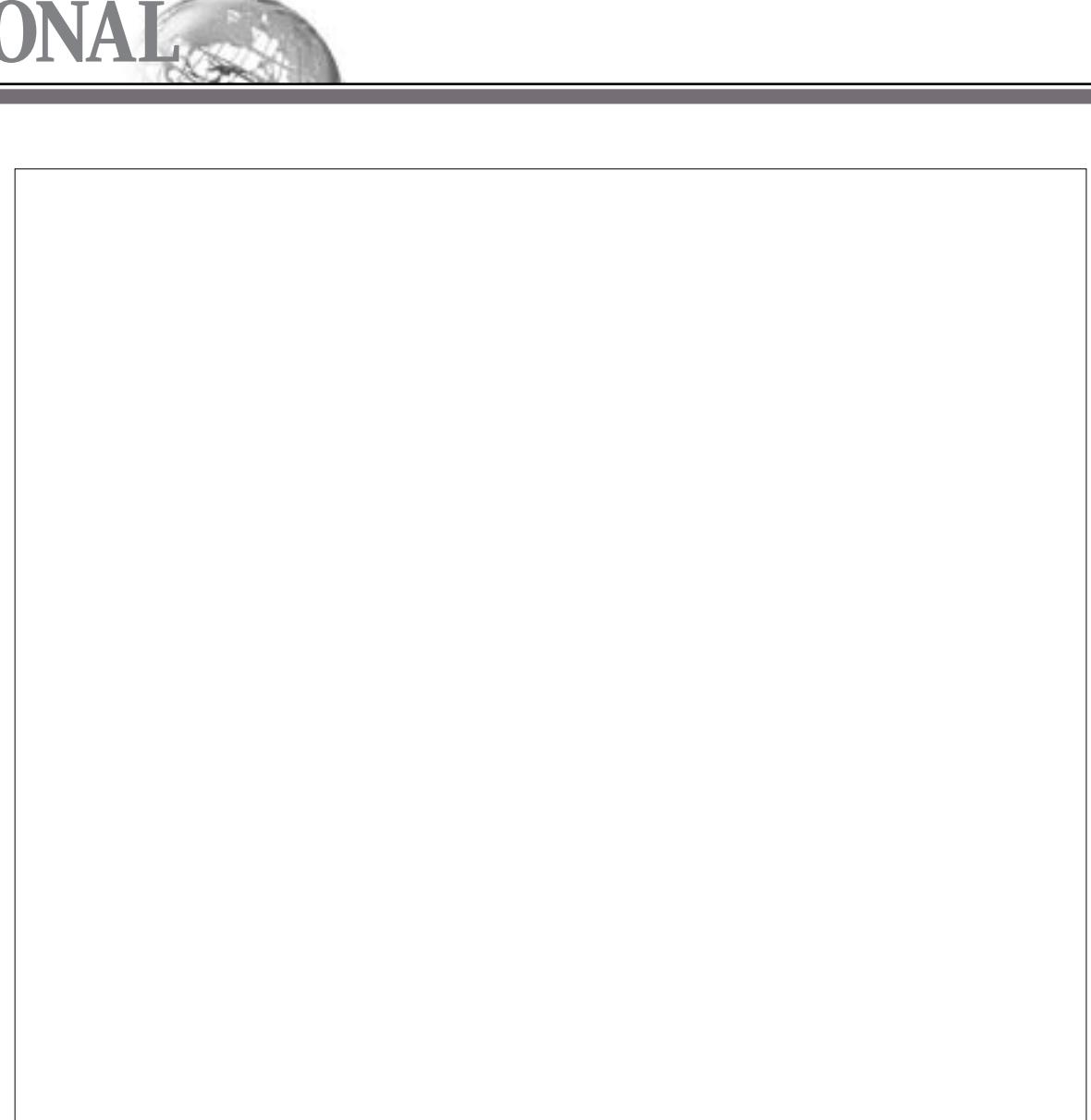
Trump did suggest that he may perform a U-turn on his pledge to abandon the global climate deal agreed in Paris in 2015. "Something could happen with respect to the Paris accord," he said, without making clear what he meant.

But when Trump eventually arrives in Britain the protests need to bring not the hundreds there were in Paris but hundreds of thousands of people onto the streets.



## On other pages...

Can we save the planet? Interview with Ian Angus >> Pages 14&15



POMPOUS IN Paris—presidents Trump and Macron share a special moment last week

## MIDDLE EAST

# Israeli troops clamp down at Al-Aqsa

by NICK CLARK

ISRAEL HAS launched a new crackdown on Palestinians in East Jerusalem, restricting Muslim access to the Al Aqsa mosque compound.

Israeli forces closed the compound on Friday ahead of Muslim prayers, only to reopen it with metal detectors for Muslim worshippers to pass through on Sunday.

Soldiers also ordered security guards from the Waqf—the Muslim body supposed to be in charge of the mosque—off site. It came after three

Palestinians shot and killed two armed Israeli border police officers, who enforce Israel's occupation of Jerusalem, last week.

Hundreds of Palestinians refused to enter the mosque through the metal detectors and prayed outside instead.

Israeli police attacked some groups of worshippers with batons.

The mosque site, holy to both Muslims and Jews, is a flashpoint in Israel's attempt to push Palestinians out of East Jerusalem.

Israel has occupied East Jerusalem for 50 years.



A soldier near Al-Aqsa mosque

## Threat to Lebanon socialists

by ANNE ALEXANDER

ACTIVISTS FROM the Socialist Forum in Lebanon are facing a campaign of threats and intimidation after they called for a protest in solidarity with Syrian refugees.

Over a million Syrians in Lebanon endure terrible conditions, repression and discrimination.

Lebanese armed forces raided two

Syrian refugee camps on 30 June, arresting hundreds of people and killing several.

The raids were officially labelled as "preventative" actions targeting "terrorists", following armed attacks on Lebanese forces and the kidnapping of Lebanese soldiers in the area.

Lebanese activist groups began to mobilise as news spread that some

of the detainees appeared to have been tortured and killed in custody.

One of the first planned campaign actions was a solidarity sit-in in Beirut. The organisers became the subject of a smear campaign and death threats.

The Socialist Forum condemned the threats and vowed to continue the campaign.

Longer at bit.ly/2va23Gq

## IN BRIEF

### EGYPT

Police met with resistance when they tried to evict residents of al-Warrak island on the Nile river in Cairo last Sunday. One person was killed and 19 injured.

### IRAQ

The army held a victory parade in Baghdad's fortified "Green Zone" last Saturday to celebrate the "liberation" of Mosul—which saw many human rights abuses.

### TURKEY

A year after mass protests foiled a coup attempt, president Recep Tayyip Erdogan has announced an extension of the "temporary" state of emergency that followed.

## We can fight together

WHEN YOU leave your country because you cannot find a job you become a migrant.

Maybe I was a privileged one since I was able to buy a plane ticket and used the "facilities" given in Britain to a European Union (EU) worker.

But I will never forget when I left my family and friends in Madrid three years ago.

As an internationalist, I voted against the European Union (EU) constitution more than a decade ago because I felt it was all about profit.

So I can understand why the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) campaigned to leave the EU.

I talked to some SWP members at the Marxism 2017 festival. They said Brexit was about democracy and people in Britain voted against the establishment.

But were these ideas behind the vast majority of people who went to the polls last year? Sadly, I do not think so.

I believe the media and some political parties turned the focus on immigration and racism.

That is why I reckon most of the EU workers in Britain felt angry and disappointed.

From a personal point of view, it was quite difficult to read the results in a different way.

Having said that, after attending Marxism 2017 I realised that we are all welcome to fight for workers' rights and trying to get a fairer society.

We need to stand up to racism, no matter what you voted for or where you come from.

Ricardo  
Swansea

## It's better not to boycott Uber over workers' rights

LABOUR'S shadow business secretary Rebecca Long-Bailey said she doesn't use the taxi firm Uber because it's not "morally acceptable" as the firm exploits its drivers.

She was attacked for being "out of touch" by the right wing think tank the Adam Smith institute.

They couldn't care less about workers' rights—or about ordinary people's safety.



ILLUSTRATION: TIM SANDERS

## Will pay rise hike prices?

GO AHEAD and demand a pay rise—but prices will rise accordingly.

**Guy Hunt**  
On Facebook

● PRICES ARE rising already and wages are low. But I'll tell you what else is rising—the wealth of the super rich.

I hope everybody gets stuck in with the fight over pay.

**Angela McCormick**  
On Facebook

● I'M NOT an economist and I've never run a business

But I can't believe it's a good choice to deny those who provide essential services a pay rise.

**Ian Garty**  
On Facebook

● IF WE have a proper fight over pay it could ignite other struggles. Let's end the one-sided class war!

**Sandra Hill**  
On Facebook

## Well done to post workers

TOTAL RESPECT to postal workers standing up for their pensions.

Privatisation was stupid. Royal Mail made loads for this country.

**Martin Timsbury**  
On Twitter

## Purge the Labour right

LABOUR MPs attacking their members for talking about deselections are scared of democracy.

What's the problem with being accountable to people you are supposed to represent?

We've been treated with contempt for years.

**Ray Hall**  
On Facebook

● I AGREE. Isn't it time for the likes of Yvette Cooper to resign?

**Jasna Balorda**  
On Facebook

● THERE SHOULD be a mass purge of the Labour right.

Now is the time to seize the moment or the right will come back with a vengeance.

**Ali Haytch**  
On Facebook

● TRUE. If Corbyn doesn't purge the Blairite rump they will come back to damage him.

**Frank Homeward**  
On Facebook

## Fans are organising to stop the Football Lads Alliance

RAYMIE KIERNAN'S piece on the Football Lads Alliance (FLA) was timely (Socialist Worker, 5 July). As Raymie says, the FLA is trying to learn lessons from the English Defence League's (EDL) implosion.

But this may prove troublesome. The FLA's poster boy—"hero" of the London Bridge attacks Roy Larner—is a National Front-supporting Nazi. If they really are against all forms of extremism, as they claim, then he will have to go.

Don't hold your breath. But such a figure's politics and prominence could well mean several people won't attend the next FLA event in October.

The FLA's social media is littered with Islamophobic and similar poison from members of fascist

groups. It is not removed by admins.

FLA organisers were keen to stop racist chants that broke out on their June march. But they didn't remove the likes of Joel Titus, ex EDL "youth" leader, or various fascists in attendance.

The FLA claims to want to include families on future marches, a realisation that its base is limited and overly macho.

For now Tommy Robinson, ex EDL leader, is being kept at arm's length. But he clearly would like to be part of the FLA. That and the inbuilt tensions can hinder FLA plans.

Unite Against Fascism and Stand Up To Racism have noted that football firms around the FLA are

already plotting to fight each other in the new football season. This reflects the FLA's combustible mix.

Its lack of ideological homogeneity means it can be split by anti-racists.

Anti-racist fans have much to build on. This could involve groups such as the Hillsborough Justice campaign and Ultras Against Racism.

Battles against racists and fascists have been won around football grounds before.

The overwhelming majority of fans don't support racism and Islamophobia. Fans are already organising against the FLA. Watch this space.

**Paul Sillett**  
East London

## This posh pillock is no joke

IT DOESN'T surprise me that the Scum (Sun) newspaper is one of the biggest pushers of the idea that ultra-posh Tory MP Jacob Rees-Mogg is somehow popular.

There is nothing cute about pictures of him and his son out campaigning looking like a posh remake of Invasion of the Body Snatchers.

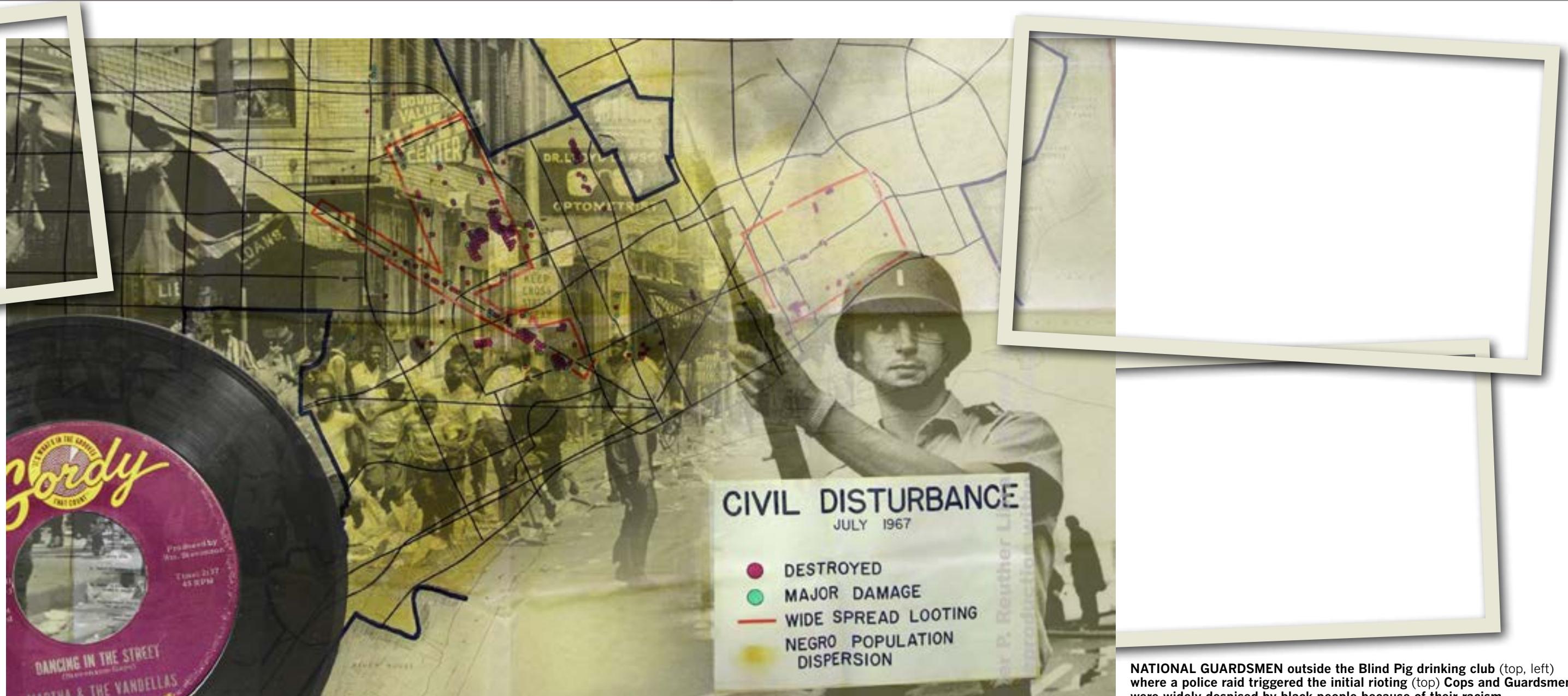
Pair of toffs—Jacob Rees-Mogg (right) and racist mate Nigel Farage

Nor is there anything funny about hanging his Tory conference pass on an "elegant gold watch chain". With a thoroughly homophobic, anti-disabled and pro-war voting record he is a prime example of the

nasty party through and through.

But if he really wants to keep traditional values alive then I'm happy to crowd fund a guillotine just for him if need be.

**Pat Clinton**  
Manchester



Fifty years ago Detroit, the Motorcity, exploded in five days of rioting. The uprising marked the end of the Civil Rights era and the birth of Black Power, writes **Yuri Prasad**

**S**OUL superstar Martha Reeves was on stage in her hometown of Detroit on Sunday 23 July 1967. The regular Motown Revue at the Fox Theatre was in full swing with thousands of mostly black teenagers dancing in the searing summer heat.

To all intents, Detroit, the "Motorcity", was doing well. Tens of thousands had jobs in the car factories.

And at weekends the young spent what was left of their wages trying to forget the dirt and danger of the sweltering foundries and pressing plants.

But this week was going to be different—and outside a heat of a different kind was growing.

In the early hours Detroit police had raided The Blind Pig, a black, unlicensed, late-night drinking club where locals were celebrating the return of two soldiers from Vietnam.

Scuffles and fights followed cops' attempts to make arrests. Shop windows were smashed and soon looting began.

Hatred of the police was widespread among the poor in Detroit, especially the black poor. The vast majority of cops were white and the force excelled at recruiting and promoting the most bigoted.

Officers routinely stopped and searched young men and women—and were not afraid to lash out if anyone didn't know their place. Even old black men were routinely addressed by police as "Boy".

“

**Men and women, young and old, ran into shops and grabbed whatever they could**

Some Black-owned shops were saved...

Small scale disturbances were common, so top cops expected things at the Blind Pig to calm down as the morning wore on. But by afternoon buildings were ablaze and smoke billowed across the city.

Evening saw rioting spread and the overwhelmed Detroit police call in reinforcements from Michigan State and Wayne County. Hundreds of white officers carrying shotguns and long-held resentments against the black poor were off the leash.

They rounded up people, whether or not they were committing crime, who defied instructions to stay indoors.

Arrestees appeared in police mugs—shots battered and bruised after their encounter with the law. They gave false names and addresses, creating chaos in the courtrooms the next morning.

By the time revellers were ushered out of the Motown show, unrest had spread to many of the poorest black neighbourhoods.

Ghetto life meant pitiful housing, often without heating and running water. It also meant high rents—and no means of escape as landlords elsewhere refused to let to black people.

As the riot took hold, men and women, young and old, ran into shops and grabbed whatever they could. Hundreds of businesses were robbed, smashed and burned. But some were spared.

Black-owned places wrote "Soul Bro" on their windows, and sometimes this was enough for rioters to pass them by. In other cases shops known to give black people credit and treat customers with respect were allowed to stand.

Long-simmering resentment spilled out.

African Americans made up 65 percent of Detroit's inner city population, but were completely frozen out of top positions and only owned 38 percent of the businesses.

Shops were often owned by people that had long-since moved out of the ghettos into the suburbs, where black people were not allowed.

But the rioting was not restricted

to African Americans. Many young whites from the poorer suburbs joined in too. A joke spread through the blazing city—Detroit had pioneered "integrated looting".

Motown, the black music label rightly known as the "Sound of Young America", defined 1960s Detroit.

Its bosses condemned the riots. But rioters adopted one of Martha Reeves's hits—Dancing in the Streets—to be the soundtrack.

They celebrated taking control of the city as an act of liberation.

Even many of those who were not active participants believed that the authorities would now have to learn a lesson, and that it was right to fight.

Some 10,000 people joined in the rebellion with ten times more watching from the sidelines.

Over the next four days the battles only intensified.

The president used the Insurrection Act of 1807 and gave the order to send in troops. The US Army's 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions were among those who had recently returned from the Vietnam War. Now they were on streets of one of the US's greatest cities.

Author Stuart Cosgrove paints a grim picture of Detroit General Hospital.

"Bodies were wheeled though darkened corridors, and overworked staff buckled under the pressure of poor resources and a disorderly admissions system," he wrote.

Some rioters who were war

veterans took up positions on rooftops and high windows as snipers to rain down fire on officers. The cops used them as an excuse to smash their way into hundreds of black homes.

"On arrival Edmonds was reassured that his brother had undergone successful surgery and would make a good recovery, but when Edmonds arrived at what was supposedly his brother's bed, he found an older white man lying asleep."

"His brother was dead in the county morgue, tagged as John Doe."

It took until Thursday for the fighting to end. State repression on this scale could not be defied indefinitely through street fighting alone.

With so many arrested or injured,

NATIONAL GUARDSMEN outside the Blind Pig drinking club (top, left) where a police raid triggered the initial rioting (top) Cops and Guardsmen were widely despised by black people because of their racism

those that remained in the fight got tired and many ran out of food and supplies. According to Time magazine the city had become a ghost town.

Detroit was shrouded in acrid smoke, the Edsel Ford and John C. Lodge freeways were nearly deserted, and tens of thousands of office and factory workers stayed home."

Over a period of five days 43 people had been killed, 33 black and 10 white. Thirty of the victims were shot by cops, National Guardsmen or store owners.

Over seven thousand were arrested—the youngest being just four years old and the oldest 82.

For many Civil Rights activists, the urban revolt confirmed their own frustrations with the slow pace of change and the hypocrisy of US society.

And its example helped inspire revolts around the world in 1968.

BLACK GHETTOS across the US burned in riots every summer from 1964 until the end of the decade.

The rebellions—of which Detroit was the most significant—served notice that racism had ceased to be merely a problem of the Southern states.

The answer lay in the way the struggle in the North demanded massive redistribution of wealth and a confrontation with the racist state if it were to be resolved.

Northern Democrats could not support fight against racism in their own backyards without undermining their own power.

As white liberals turned their backs, black people started to look to more radical solutions.

Soon the demand for Black Power came to surpass those of Martin Luther King's Civil Rights Movement.

But in making this militant appeal, new Black radicals were to find that they had potential allies. By the end of the 1960s, millions of young whites also rejected the American Dream and wanted an end to imperialism and capitalism.

More online

Search our archive and read more, go to [www.socialistworker.co.uk](http://www.socialistworker.co.uk)



**Horror at the Algiers Motel**

THE ALGIERS Motel was about a mile from where the riots began. It was popular with travelling musicians, young ravers, drug dealers and prostitutes.

Up and coming young soul act The Dramatics checked in on the evening of Tuesday 24 July after playing the Motown Revue, along with friends who were trying to escape the riot.

A party atmosphere prevailed, with guests intermingling, drinking and getting high.

Police and National Guardsmen raided the Algiers in the early hours of Wednesday after reports of shots being fired nearby. Officers, enraged by the idea of inter-racial sex, found the Dramatics in a room with young white women.

By the time the cops left the building three teenage boys—Carl Cooper, Aubrey Pollard and Fred Temple—were dead. One had been shot in the face and his testicles blown apart by police bullets.

Four men accused of committing the horrific acts at the Algiers were to face various charges but in every instance the verdict was not guilty, or the case was dismissed.

# MOTORCITY IS BURNING

**New hope of Black Power rises from Detroit's ashes**

## WHAT WE STAND FOR

**These are the core politics of the Socialist Workers Party.**

### INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

Under capitalism workers' labour creates all profit. A socialist society can only be constructed when the working class seizes control of the means of production and democratically plans how they are used.

### REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be patched up or reformed as the established Labour and trade union leaders say.

It has to be overthrown. Capitalism systematically degrades the natural world. Ending environmental crisis means creating a new society.

### THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against the workers.

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based upon councils of workers' delegates and a workers' militia.

At most parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system.

Only the mass action of the workers themselves can destroy the system.

### INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is part of a worldwide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose racism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.

We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

In Russia the result was state capitalism, not socialism. In Eastern Europe and China a similar system was later established by Stalinist parties. We support the struggle of workers in these countries against both private and state capitalism.

We are for real social, economic and political equality of women. We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

We defend the right of believers to practise their religion without state interference.

### THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party.

Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests. We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.

To join us, turn to page 16 or go to [www.swp.org.uk](http://www.swp.org.uk) or phone 020 7840 5602 for more information

### { SOCIALIST WORKER }

BRANCH MEETINGS  
Weekly meetings to discuss political issues and our local interventions. All welcome.

#### ABERDEEN

**Do we need more police?**  
Wed 26 Jul, 6pm, Belmont Cinema Cafe, 49 Belmont St, AB10 1JS

#### BARNESLEY

**Will the trade union leaders fight the pay cap?**  
Thu 27 Jul, 7pm, YMCA, Blucher St, S70 1AP

#### BOLTON

**Where does women's oppression come from?**  
Thu 27 Jul, 7pm, Bolton Socialist Club, 16 Wood St (off Bradshawgate), BL1 1DY

#### BRIGHTON

**War and sectarianism in the Middle East**  
Thu 27 Jul, 7.30pm, Friends Meeting House, Ship St, BN1 1AF

#### BRISTOL

**Syriza—how a left government was tamed in Greece**  
Wed 26 Jul, 7.30pm, YHA, 14 Narrow Quay, BS1 4QA

#### BURNLEY AND PENDLE

**The US—how can the working class fight back?**  
Wed 26 Jul, 7.30pm, Red Triangle Cafe, 160 St James's St, BB11 1NR

#### CARDIFF

**Deliveroo, Uber and the gig economy—what's happening to the working class?**  
Wed 26 Jul, 7.30pm, New York Diner, CF24 3BQ

#### DONCASTER

**Fighting fascists and the far right in Europe**  
Wed 26 Jul, 7.30pm, The Women's Centre (Changing Lives), 5 Princes St, DN1 3NJ

#### DUDLEY

**Islamophobia and the Prevent agenda—why we should resist**  
Wed 26 Jul, 8pm, The What Centre, 23 Coventry St, Stourbridge, DY8 1EP

#### DUNDEE

**State and revolution**  
Wed 26 Jul, 7.30pm, Dundee Voluntary Action, 10 Constitution Rd, DD1 1LL

#### EDINBURGH

**What is the socialist response to the housing crisis?**  
Wed 26 Jul, 7.30pm, Friends Meeting House, 7 Victoria St, EH1 2JL

#### EXETER

**Lessons from Greece—Syriza and the struggle for socialism**  
Thu 27 Jul, 6.30pm, Exeter Community Centre, 17 St David's Hill, EX4 3RG

#### GLASGOW

**Can Corbyn revive Labour in Scotland?**  
Thu 27 Jul, 7pm, Avant Garde, 33-44 King St, Merchant City, G1 5QT

#### HUDDERSFIELD

**Work under capitalism—what do we mean by alienation?**  
Wed 26 Jul, 6.30pm, Brian Jackson House, 2 New North Parade (near both train and bus stations), HD1 5JP



On the march demanding Tory Theresa May resigns

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

## Britain turns left—what next for the movement?

### CHESTERFIELD

Thu 27 Jul, 7.30pm, Chesterfield Library, New Beetwell St, S40 1QN

### LEICESTER

Wed 2 Aug, 7pm, Leicester LGBT Centre, 15 Wellington St, LE1 6HH

### MEDWAY

Thu 27 Jul, 7.30pm, Nucleus Arts Centre (Conference Room), 272 High St, ME4 4BP

### PLYMOUTH

Wed 26 Jul, 7pm, Quaker House, 74 Mutley Plain, PL4 6LF

### TELFORD

Thu 3 Aug, 7.30pm, Carriages, The Parade, Wellington, TF1 1PY

### WOLVERHAMPTON AND WALSALL

Wed 26 Jul, 7.30pm, Wild Bytes Cafe, Darlington St, WV1 4HW

### LONDON: BRIXTON

**Donald Trump and the crisis in the White House**

Wed 26 Jul, 7pm, Vida Walsh Centre, 2b Saltoun Rd (near Effra Rd, facing Windrush Square), SW2 1EP

### LONDON: CENTRAL

**Do we need more police?**  
Thu 27 Jul, 6.30pm, D103 Lecture Theatre, 25 Gordon St (above UCLU), WC1H 0AY

### LONDON: EALING

**Marxism and mental health**  
Thu 27 Jul, 7.30pm, YM Lounge, YMCA West London, 25 St Mary's Rd, W5 2RE

### LONDON: HACKNEY

**Where is Venezuela going?**  
Thu 27 Jul, 7.30pm, The Round Chapel, 2 Powerscroft Rd (corner Lower Clapton Rd), E5 0PU

### LONDON: HARINGEY

**Turkey, the Kurds and Syria**  
Wed 26 Jul, 7.30pm, St John Vianney Church Hall, 386 West Green Rd (corner Vincent Rd), N15 3QH

### LONDON: ISLINGTON

**Syria—revolution, counter-revolution and civil war**  
Thu 27 Jul, 7pm, The Old Fire Station, 84 Mayton St, N7 6QT

### LONDON: NEWHAM

**The fight against racism and imperialism—a rebel's guide to Frantz Fanon**  
Wed 26 Jul, 7pm, Stratford Advice Arcade, 107-109 The Grove (next to Morrisons car park), E15 1HP

### LONDON: TOWER HAMLETS

**From Stalin to Putin—Russia today**  
Wed 26 Jul, 7pm, Oxford House, Derbyshire St (opposite Bethnal Green Rd/Tesco), E2 6HG

### LONDON: WALTHAM FOREST

**How can we fight the far right?**

Wed 26 Jul, 7.30pm, William Morris Community Centre, 6-8 Greenleaf Rd, Walthamstow, E17 6QQ

### MANCHESTER: CHORLTON

**Frederick Engels—a revolutionary life**  
Wed 26 Jul, 7.30pm, Chorlton Central Church (Meeting Room), Barlow Moor Rd, M21 8BF

### MANCHESTER: CITY CENTRE

**Where does women's oppression come from?**  
Thu 27 Jul, 7pm, Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount St, M2 5NS

### NEWCASTLE

**Donald Trump and the crisis in the White House**  
Thu 27 Jul, 7pm, Broadacres House, Market St, NE1 6HQ

### NOTTINGHAM

**Do we need more police?**  
Wed 26 Jul, 7.30pm, International Community Centre, 61b Mansfield Rd, NG1 3FN

### OXFORD

**Why is racism on the rise?**  
Wed 26 Jul, 7.30pm, Restore, Manzil Way (off Cowley Rd), OX4 1YH

### PORTSMOUTH

**Donald Trump and the crisis in the White House**  
Wed 26 Jul, 7.30pm, Somerstown Community Centre, River's St, PO5 4EZ

**SCARBOROUGH**  
**Imperialism or post-imperialism? Empire in the 21st century**

Wed 26 Jul, 7.30pm, Tap and Spile, 94 Falsgrave Rd, YO12 5AZ

### SHEFFIELD: CITY CENTRE

**Where do profits come from?**  
Thu 27 Jul, 7pm, Central United Reformed Church, 60 Norfolk St (near Crucible Theatre), S1 2JB

### SWANSEA

**R D Laing and the politics of mental health**

Thu 27 Jul, 7.30pm, Brynmill Community Centre, St Albans Rd, SA2 0BP

### { MOVEMENT EVENTS }

### SOUTH LONDON

**The Battle of Lewisham—how we stopped the Nazi National Front**

12 Aug, 1-4.30pm, Clifton Rise, SE14. Anniversary march organised by Unite Against Fascism. More details at [bit.ly/2tQytr5](http://bit.ly/2tQytr5)

### NATIONAL

**Demonstration at the Tory party conference**

Sun 1 Oct, Manchester. Called by the People's Assembly [thepeoplesassembly.org.uk](http://thepeoplesassembly.org.uk). Conference—confronting the rise in racism

Sat 21 Oct, 10.30am-4.30pm, Friends Meeting House, Euston Rd, London, NW1 2BJ. Organised by Stand Up To Racism [standuptoracism.org.uk](http://standuptoracism.org.uk)

### CONTACT THE SWP

Phone 020 7840 5600

Email

[enquiries@swp.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@swp.org.uk)  
Post PO Box 71327, London SE11 9BW

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#### Cathy Porter

author of *Alexandra Kollontai: A Biography*

#### John Molyneux

author of *Lenin for Today*

#### Dave Sherry

author of *Russia 1917: Workers' Revolution & Festival of the Oppressed*

#### Alex Callinicos

author of *Deciphering Capital and Imperialism & Global Political Economy*

Book online: <https://www.swp.org.uk/celebrating-1917>

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Hosted by the Socialist Workers Party

# Soul of a Nation paints bold picture of Black Power fight

A powerful new exhibition at Tate Modern brings together the work of black artists from across decades of struggle in the US, says **Harold Wilson**

**SOUL OF A NATION: Art in the Age of Black Power** is a rich collection of African-American art spanning two decades of unrest. It starts in 1963 as crowds flocked to Martin Luther King's march on Washington.

With traditional avenues to exhibit blocked by stony indifference, African American artists struck out in new directions as they surfed a wave of revolutionary change.

Neighbourhood buildings in black districts became adopted canvases. This was creative labour on the move, against a backdrop of the most explosive period in the postwar US as Civil Rights somersaulted to Black Power.

What emerged was not a unifying voice, school or identifiable black art but a diverse response to challenging questions. Were artists responsible to the "black community" or simply to themselves? Should they orient their art towards black audiences and shun established white galleries?

Spiral, a group of fifteen black artists, met over the two years from 1963 in the New York studio of Romare Bearden. He proposed that, at a time of collective action on the streets, Spiral should likewise work collaboratively.

Bearden's photo collages are a highlight of the exhibition.

For example, Pittsburgh Memory (1964) depicts two "working-class everymen" composed from strips cut from printed images of other faces, in black and white with gold leaf hints.

Bearden wouldn't brook modesty or apology in locating his collage paintings within the canon of Western art.

He said he was "painting the life of my people as I know it—as passionately and dispassionately as Brugel



BARKLEY L. HENDRICKS, 1969, *Icon for My Man Superman (Superman Never Saved any Black People—Bobby Seale)*

painted the life of the Flemish people of his day".

Other artists bypassed the studio and gallery setting for the

streets. Harlem-based abstract artists Smokehouse Associates, sought out neighbourhood walls as platforms for expression. It was also a

way of transforming a community's appearance.

Likewise, the mural movement's Wall of Respect in Chicago's Southside favoured outdoor space. Pioneered by a group of artists under the acronym Obasa, their murals were homage to black heroes in literature, sport, music and intellectual life.

The exhibition would have benefited from a fuller exploration of the Black Arts Movement, the cultural wing of Black Power movement. But its founder Amiri Baraka is referenced.

A subversive map of the "United States of Attica" produced in the wake of the Attica prison rebellion by one of Baraka's students, Faith Ringgold, is another draw.

## Revolutionary

Panther Emory Douglas said, "The ghetto is the gallery for the revolutionary artist." He brilliantly depicted cops as brutal pigs in human form.

The appalling assassination of fallen Panther Fred Hampton is one of the more sombre exhibits. Fred Hampton's Door, a work by Dana C. Chandler Jr, is a bullet-strewn wooden door on a base furiously speckled with red dots. The top of one door panel is marked "US Government Approved".

Soul Of A Nation is a weighty exhibition. From paint to sculpture, photography, collage and assemblage. It's all here with politics aplenty.

But it's ironic that it took the Ford Foundation's sponsorship to facilitate an exhibition of African-American art from an era of revolt. That dependency needs to be addressed when the fire arrives next time.

Soul of a Nation is at Tate Modern in central London until 22 October. Tickets £16.50/£14.50. Go to [tate.org.uk](http://tate.org.uk)

## Attempt at gorilla warfare ends in monkey business

### FILM

#### WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES

Directed by Matt Reeves  
On general release

THE FILM did not live up to the preceding films and seemed unsure of what it was trying to be.

It was well made but there were several problems with the plot, characters and overall meaning.

The situation of the apes had become drastically weakened compared to the previous film where

they were strong and seemed undefeatable.

In this film the apes appeared in a much more vulnerable position to start with.

That's how the film largely carries on for the duration.

There are constant scenes of oppression with very little resistance throughout.

This film lacked the inspiration of previous ones.

The suffering of the apes lasted for so long that the final climactic battle should have been boldly



Apes—losing their power?

defiant. Instead we were left with very little build-up to a cop-out ending.

The characters were underdeveloped and Caesar the ape leader came across as defeated and vengeful, making it difficult to root for him.

The best thing about the previous films was the collective strength of the apes. In this film however, the apes rely on a weak leader.

The plot did not feel very well thought out, despite every element of it being spelled out.

The female apes play

no role and are seen as caregivers.

The politics of the film were all over the place, as if the writers were unclear about what they wanted to say.

The film contains scenes resembling Auschwitz and slavery, references to the four horsemen of the apocalypse and a Holy war. It also played on the idea of guerrilla warfare where a small elite group can liberate the masses.

It tried to cover too many topics without fully addressing any of them. *Saba Shiraz*

### FILM

#### A GOOD DAY TO DIE, HOKA HEY

Directed by Harold Monfils  
Available at [hokaheymovie.com](http://hokaheymovie.com)

THERE IS a stereotype of war photographers as hard-living egoists hooked on the adrenaline of the chase.

It is a view most of them try to live up to and which this documentary does little to undercut.

War photographer Jason P Howe is the central subject of this grim film.

At the start, we're dropped by helicopter into a firefight in Afghanistan's Helmand Province, before



Jason P Howe

shooting off to Colombia, Lebanon and Iraq.

He's described as an idiot and a maniac by his fellow photographers—he is clearly neither.

It is a weakness of the film that it rushes too fast through the images.

Like much war journalism, the film is interested in the close-up of the battle and pays little attention to bigger pictures.

### TOP 5 BOOKS

Bestsellers at Bookmarks, the socialist Bookshop

1	<b>Lenin for today</b> John Molyneux
2	<b>A reader's guide to Marx's Capital</b> Joesph Choonara
3	<b>One big union of all the workers—solidarity and the fighting IWW</b> John Newsinger
4	<b>Toussaint Louverture—a black Jacobin in the age of revolutions</b> Charles Forsdick and Christian Högsbjerg
5	<b>A redder shade of green—intersections of science and socialism</b> Ian Angus

Phone 020 7637 1848  
[bookmarksbookshop.co.uk](http://bookmarksbookshop.co.uk)  
Why not visit the shop at 1 Bloomsbury Street, London WC1B 3QE

**T**HE environmental conditions that have sustained human civilisation throughout its history are collapsing, capitalism is to blame and only socialism has the solution.

That's the warning sounded by Ian Angus, author and editor of Climate and Capitalism website.

He told Socialist Worker, "The planet is going to change substantially."

"Big parts of it will be uninhabitable by the end of this century if we don't do something now."

"It's very likely that in this century ocean levels will rise by at least a metre or two, maybe more."

"That would mean the Thames is going to overflow and flood much of inner London."

"Many cities are right next to oceans. They will be flooded—not tomorrow but within our children's lifetime or our grandchildren's lifetime."

"In some parts of the world it's going to be too hot to work."

"Many of these are places where a lot of our food comes from, so we'll have to deal with problems with food production too."

Ian has played an important role in popularising the concept of the "Anthropocene" on the left.

Many geologists argue that the relatively stable environmental conditions in place since the Ice Ages ended are giving way to something much more chaotic.

Ian explained, "Today we see global warming, mass extinctions, and other multiple environmental crises all converging. These symptoms all relate to what's called the Anthropocene."

## Epoch

This proposed new epoch is named after the Greek word for "man". That's because the driving force behind this crisis is a human society dominated by capitalism.

Ian explained, "In the decades since the Second World War, humanity's impact on the Earth has gone beyond what it used to be."

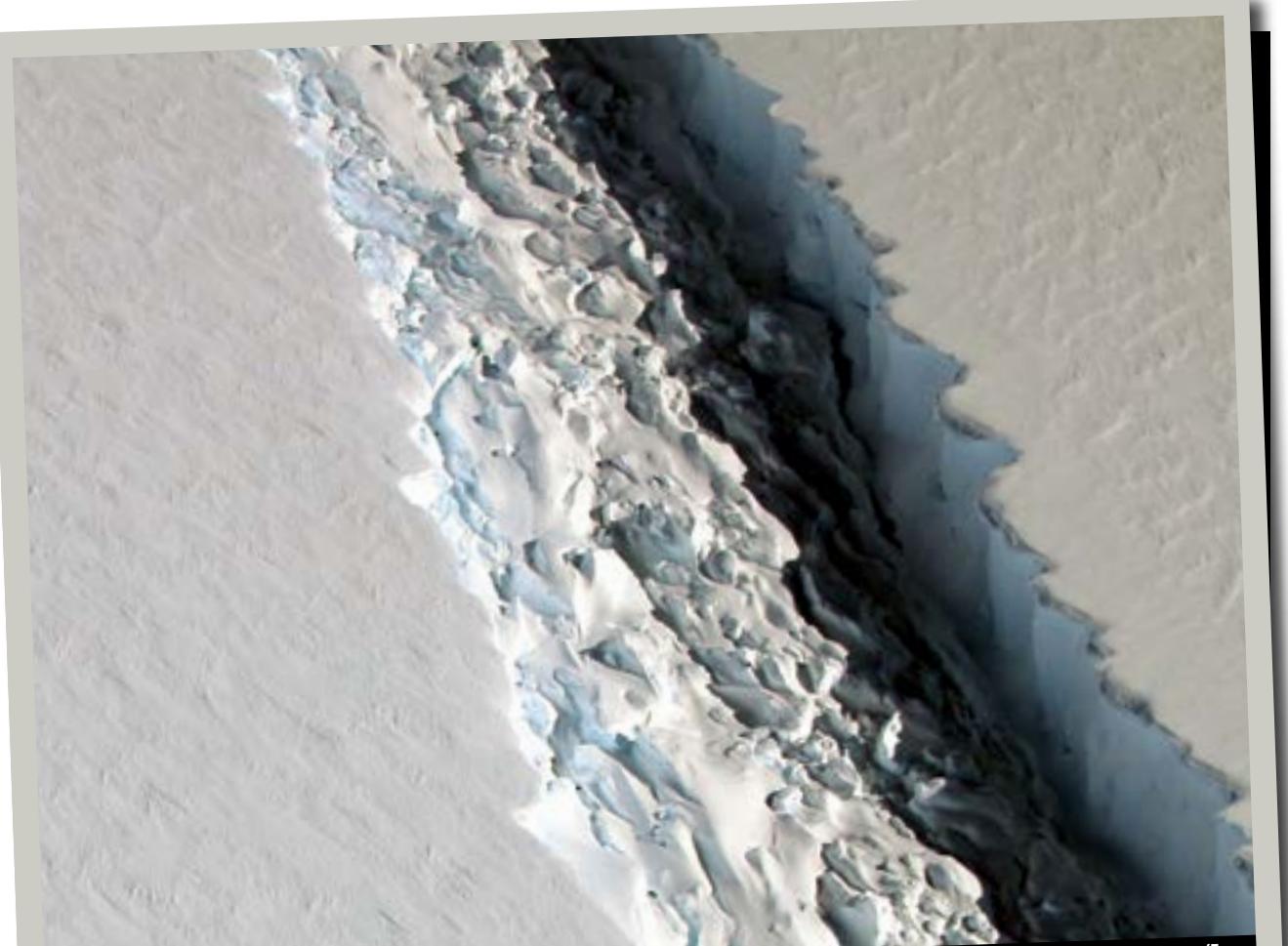
"Through history we certainly wrecked things, but we didn't disrupt the way the entire Earth system works."

"Now humanity's impact through fossil fuels, destructive forms of mining and agriculture and more, is doing that."

This is due to the way our society is organised.

"Fundamentally it's a problem of capitalism," said Ian. "It's a problem that our social structure, instead of working along with Earth's natural processes, works against them."

"That means dealing with everything in the extraordinarily short term. It means using

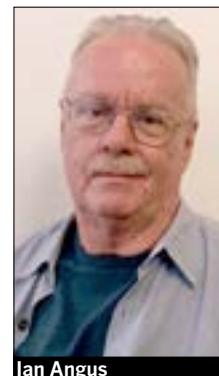


ONE OF the largest icebergs on record broke away from the Larsen C ice shelf in Antarctica last week

PICTURE: STUART RANKIN/Flickr

# CAN WE SAVE THE PLANET?

Capitalism generates environmental damage and climate chaos—but we have the power to stop it by transforming the world, author Ian Angus explained to Dave Sewell



Ian Angus

up resources that needed to be carefully husbanded.

"It means destroying the soil's fertility so that you have to keep dumping more and more fertiliser into it."

"Under capitalism you don't have farming to produce food for human beings, you have agriculture to turn fossil fuels into products for the supermarket."

"We have this system that's driven by growth. It must grow intensely and

**Without a fairly radical shift in the economy, there will not be solutions**

constantly in order to survive. "That undermines the basis on which life has evolved on the planet—including our species."

Many commentators try to spread the blame from the system to humanity as a whole.

One recurring claim is that there are too many people.

This lets the system off the hook and—even if people don't intend it—strengthens the justifications used for attacking migrants and the poor.

It's also not true, Ian explained.

"This is a global issue," he said. "And there are about three billion people on this Earth who contribute nothing to global warming, people whose greenhouse gas emissions are essentially zero."

"And you've got another 2.5 billion or more whose emissions are very slight."

"So it's not about what individuals are doing but what giant corporations are doing."

"Or the US military and the British military—they have a bigger impact on climate than any million people you would come across."

**P**OLITICIANS cross the world congratulated themselves for ratifying the Paris agreement on climate change.

But Ian said, "The only really remarkable thing about the Paris agreement is that they actually managed to sign it. When you look at what they signed, it's all 'aspirational' goals."

"There are no requirements for the signatories to do anything specific. Each one will figure out their own plans, and face no penalties for not carrying them out."

"It's an agreement that's built on the assumption that there's nothing really seriously wrong."

"It imagines that we could solve this by, say, adding a few pennies to the price of petrol."

"When really we have to confront the fact that we have to stop using fossil fuels."

"And even at that level of minuscule aspirations, the biggest capitalist country in the world has just pulled out of it."

"The US government pulled out of an agreement that didn't require it to do anything, so it could avoid even admitting there's a problem."

"That's scary."

The need for action is urgent. Ian said, "The changes are underway—the question is going to be how can we slow them down, how can we adapt to them, what can we reverse."

"Our governments aren't thinking about those questions, let alone answering them."

"We can confront the problem now, but the longer we delay taking action the harder it is going to be."

## Looming

Faced with looming climate catastrophe, it's easy to feel powerless.

Ian said, "I sympathise with the idea that it's too big to grapple with. We are talking for almost the first time in human history about problems on a global scale."

"Back in the 20th century we confronted the problem of atomic testing where nuclear weapons were being fired and the fallout was spreading all over the world."

"We managed to force them to stop nuclear testing,

substantial movements did that."

"Though we had the advantage then that it was just a small number of countries doing that."

"Similarly we successfully reversed the release of chemicals that were destroying the ozone layer."

"Though again, we had a single change to be made, involving a relatively small number of companies."

"Now we need to deal with changes that affect the whole way the economy works globally."

"But that doesn't make it impossible. Ian is hopeful about the environmental movement."

He said, "We can push back against this drive to expand fossil fuel production."

"We can push back against fracking, and propose alternatives like investing in windfarms and creating climate jobs."

## Struggles

"Movements are built by people taking on the struggles around them and gradually expanding."

"The key will be building a counterforce to this utterly irrational system."

Some unions see the fight against climate change as a distraction from—or even a threat to—battles on issues such as jobs. But for Ian, the issues are linked.

"We're talking about how we're going to function in a world where we'd better stop using fossil fuels pretty quickly," he said.

"That means we have to make a fairly radical shift in the nature of jobs, in the nature of how our economy works."

"And even at that level of minuscule aspirations, the biggest capitalist country in the world has just pulled out of it."

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## Seized

In Russian Central Asia peasants rose up in 1916, attacking garrisons of troops. In Turkistan, between 8 and 13 July, they seized Fergana region. Martial law was declared throughout the whole of Turkistan.

However, as Edward Dennis Sokol argues, "The movements showed little organisation or range." They were unsustainable when uncoupled from the workers' movement.

The peasant experiences exploitation in a different way to the worker. Their exploiter is the landowner who the peasant sees as an individual not connected to a system.

Once this oppressor had been dispossessed or killed, as they frequently were, crowds seized parcels of land, animals or crops and returned to tending their own patch. Peasants don't act as a lasting



Donald Trump (top) has pulled out of even a weak deal on tackling climate change. Droughts linked to climate change threaten food production, such as in this rice field near Bangkok (above)

without considerable social, political and economic change. "So there isn't some kind of artificial division here. We certainly do have to build movements that bring together socialists and people who aren't socialists."

"But we also have to recognise that without a fairly radical shift in the underlying nature of the economy there will not be solutions."

A climate change protester

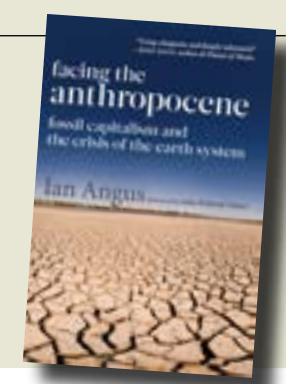
## READ MORE

Ian edits and writes for [climateandcapitalism.com](http://climateandcapitalism.com). His books include:

• Facing the Anthropocene—Fossil Capitalism and the Crisis of the Earth System £17.99

• A Redder Shade of Green—Intersections of Science and Socialism £18.99

Available at Bookmarks, the socialist bookshop. Phone 020 7637 1848 or go to [bookmarksbookshop.co.uk](http://bookmarksbookshop.co.uk)



The question of how the revolutionary party relates to all groups in society remains relevant for the struggle today

WORKERS IN the industrial centres and cities of Russia had an immense amount of power due to the ways in which Russian capitalism had developed. But they were in a tiny minority.

The mass of the Russian population consisted of the peasantry. For the revolution to be carried through they had to be won over.

The Tsar's Emancipation Manifesto of 1861 formally freed serfs from being virtually the personal property of the landowners. After "emancipation", however, they were left with next to nothing.

"Peasants remained poverty-stricken, downtrodden, ignorant, and subject to the feudal landowners," wrote Lenin in 1911.

The "reforms" of the 1860s favoured the landowners and aristocracy even more.

But the peasants showed they could rise up against the Tsarist landowners. Rising food prices, coupled with conscription into the army, had made conditions intolerable.

Some environmentalists argue that as all of humanity is affected we need a movement broad enough that even capitalists and right wingers can get behind.

But Ian is hopeful about the environmental movement. He said, "We can push back against this drive to expand fossil fuel production."

"We can push back against fracking, and propose alternatives like investing in windfarms and creating climate jobs."

The peasant experiences exploitation in a different way to the worker. Their exploiter is the landowner who the peasant sees as an individual not connected to a system.

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## 1917 RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

# 'Bread, peace and land' joins the peasants with workers



PEASANTS WERE conscripted to the army

## BACK STORY

Starting on 7 July (20 July by modern calendar)

- The Provisional Government orders the arrest of Lenin, sending him into hiding

- Summary executions are re-introduced at the front. Political ideas are censored and many newspapers shut down

## Slogan

By 1917 the Bolsheviks had worked out the answer. The "freedom" granted the peasants left them without the means to support themselves. The slogan "bread, peace and land" was part of the attempt to draw the interests of workers and peasants together against the Tsarist regime and its capitalist supporters.

The horror of the First World War provided the material basis for the peasants to join forces with workers. Soldiers' councils made up mainly of peasants were organised against the war. This brought them in touch with workers' councils in the revolutionary centres of Petrograd and Moscow. As soldiers demobilised they travelled across Russia, forming the basis of

Today, the working class is growing proportionately to the peasantry on a world scale. Despite this, the question of how the revolutionary party relates to all groups in society remains relevant.

The working class must act as the beacon and spearhead for struggle by all. As Lenin put it, the fight for socialism "means struggle, not only for land and freedom, but also against all exploitation".

This is part of a series of weekly articles on the Russian Revolution [tinyurl.com/sw1917](http://tinyurl.com/sw1917)

**The horror of war gave the material basis for peasants to join workers**

# Get behind the BA cabin crew strikers

by DAVE SEWELL

**BRITISH AIRWAYS (BA)** cabin crew were set to start a 14-day strike on Wednesday of this week. It follows a 16-day strike that ended last Sunday.

Strikers took their fight against poverty pay to parliament last week.

Up to 100 Unite union members from BA's mixed fleet rallied with supporters including MPs—mainly from the Labour left.

Striker Alex said they were there to get support in parliament on two issues.

"Something has to be done about the fact that a company making £1.3 billion profit has workers relying on food banks," she said.

## Notorious

Alex added in reference to BA bringing in Qatar Airways to run strike hit flights, "We want something to be done about BA bringing in a company that's notorious for its discrimination—particularly towards women—for strikebreaking."

"The Civil Aviation Authority that is supposed



STRIKING BRITISH Airways workers rallied at parliament last week

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

to stop this sort of thing happening is in BA's back pocket.

"The government should step in."

John McDonnell is shadow chancellor and MP for the

area around Heathrow airport. "We know what it's about—it's about smashing the union," he said to applause. McDonnell said a Labour government would "make sure there are laws"

to prevent strikebreaking.

His promise was a welcome change from Labour governments that left Tory union laws intact.

But there's no guarantee he'll get to keep it, let alone

in time to beat BA.

Workers must rely on their own strength.

Unite rep Tom—not his real name—said, "This is costing BA a fortune, and doing long-term damage to

the brand. We know we're having an effect, so we're going to keep up the pressure.

"We have no alternative, it's that or leave. We can't afford to live on these wages."

## Buoyed

Strikers are buoyed by the support they've had—for example on the LGBT+ Pride march in London earlier this month.

"We were really surprised, people were applauding us for fighting low pay," said Tom. "There's a growing gap between rich and poor, so I think people saw themselves in us."

Unite needs to use this support to spread the action at BA, the only sure way to increase the pressure and undermine the strikebreaking.

Alex said, "The only way BA will listen is if we hit them where it hurts—their profits."

To send messages of support or donate to the strike fund, go to [sites.google.com/view/mfunitre/how-to-support](http://sites.google.com/view/mfunitre/how-to-support)

## More online

For a longer version, go to [bit.ly/2t7GIVP](http://bit.ly/2t7GIVP)

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# Victims call for justice over tainted blood agony

With a possible inquiry on the way, contaminated blood scandal victims spoke to **Sadie Robinson**

**FIGURE IT OUT**

**5,000**  
People were infected with contaminated blood

**2,500**  
People have died as a result

**34**  
Years were wasted before the government announced an inquiry

Some 5,000 haemophilia patients and others were given contaminated blood during the late 1970s and 1980s.

They were infected with HIV and Hepatitis C. Around 2,500 have died. Most didn't know they were infected—and some went on to unwittingly infect others.

Glenn was infected with Hepatitis C in 1983 when he was given a blood material called Factor VIII during a tooth extraction. He didn't find out until 1995.

Glenn told Socialist Worker, "The doctor explained I faced a deteriorating liver disease leading to cirrhosis, liver cancer and possible death."

"I left that room feeling as if my world had just fallen apart."

Jackie was infected with Hep C in 1983 after having a transfusion but wasn't diagnosed until 2011.

She told Socialist Worker that the true scale of the scandal is still unknown.

## Undiagnosed

"I'm sure there are still people dying in ignorance, undiagnosed," she said. "I have a friend who was only diagnosed 18 months ago."

"Hep C is a silent killer. Its symptoms can be overlooked or attributed to other factors."

As Glenn sat in shock after learning of his infection, the doctor asked if he had taken drugs, had a tattoo, been "promiscuous" or travelled abroad.

"He was trying to shift the blame," said Glenn. "He knew how I'd been infected."

"He looked at my notes and said, it was probably here in 1983 when you had Factor VIII. But if I'd said I have dabbled in drugs, he would've said I'd infected myself."

Glenn said this happened to many people. "It's outrageous that

## we were infected," he said.

"But then to have them try and blame innocent people makes you really angry."

"It's similar to what happened with the Hillsborough disaster. They tried to shift the blame onto fans."

Jackie described how the news transformed her life. As well as her health, she had to worry about making ends meet.

"I was medically retired from my job and our whole future seemed to spiral out of control," she said.

"I prayed I had cirrhosis, because at a certain stage you get extra money."

## Destitute

"Without this, my family could have ended up destitute. It beggars belief that you have to wish a death sentence on yourself just to provide for your family."

Jackie said the authorities still want to cover up what happened.

"I asked my MP if all pre-op assessments could include asking patients if they had received a transfusion prior to 1991," she said. "This could have found my Hep C earlier—and found it in others."

"He said this simple measure would not be possible."

"I feel they are not looking for victims because they still don't want the scale of the scandal to come out."



THOUSANDS OF people were infected with contaminated blood

ILLUSTRATION: TIM SANDERS

## It was all about money—the Tories bought infected blood on the cheap

GLENN EXPLAINED how the scandal was linked to cost-cutting and a drive for profit.

"In the early 1980s Britain didn't have enough blood and blood products," he said. "So the Conservatives looked around the world for a cheap source of Factor VIII concentrate. And they bought it from America."

"But blood and blood products there were collected—as they are now—from anybody and everybody, including those who were more likely to have infections."

"They even used a prison in Arkansas as a blood collection unit. It proved so lucrative that it not only paid for the prison—money went back into the state. And the blood and blood products were riddled with infection."

"People in the US started going down with HIV and Hep C. The Food and Drug Administration stopped companies like Bayer selling Factor VIII in America. But big pharmaceutical companies had millions of pounds worth of it and they wanted to make money out of it."

"So they sold it all around the world—and the Conservatives

were only too eager to buy it. They'd been warned multiple times that it wasn't safe. They never heeded any of the advice and the rest is history."

"The Conservative party were the main players. They have resisted an inquiry into this for years because they don't want the lid taking off this can of worms."

"It's not yet clear what kind of inquiry will take place. A previous inquiry into the scandal in Scotland, the Penrose Inquiry, came up with just one recommendation—to test everyone for Hep C. Campaigners rightly



Campaigners burned the Penrose report when it was published

branded it a whitewash, and they don't want another one."

"Campaigning made the government announce an inquiry," said Glenn. "People like my MP Diana Johnson, Labour MP for Hull North, have been absolutely wonderful."

"But the government has said it has released all the documents that it feels are 'relevant'. We feel they're withholding information."

"There are a lot of damaged people who are dying. They don't have the time to wait six years or more. The government knows that. It would suit their purpose very well to kick this into the long grass."

"I feel the government is going to push for a full judicial inquiry and that is not what we want."

"We don't want an inquiry that drags on for years and is chaired by some establishment figure. We want a Hillsborough-style inquiry."

"It's crucial that we get what we want and they don't get what they want. People like Kenneth Clarke, who was health secretary at the time, will hopefully have some very serious questions to answer."

For more by Glenn go to [bit.ly/2uWcwW9](http://bit.ly/2uWcwW9)

**IN BRIEF**

## Housing workers in a four-week strike

HOUSING maintenance workers in Manchester are on a four-week strike against pay differentials and attacks on their terms and conditions.

The Unite union members are employed by private contractor Mears and Mears-operated joint venture Manchester Working.

Some workers are paid up to £3,500 less than colleagues doing the same work. Workers have taken shorter strikes earlier this year, but stepped up the action as bosses refused to negotiate.

## Refuse walkout creates tailbacks

REFUSE WORKERS in Birmingham were set to strike on Wednesday over pay and in defence of their jobs and conditions.

There were massive tailbacks outside the city's rubbish dumps last weekend as residents queued to dump uncollected waste.

The council admitted that almost 1,200 people missed a collection in just one day last week. This shows how vital the workers are—and how hard their strikes can hit.

## Shattering delay for glass workers

MANUFACTURING workers at Sierra Windows in Paignton returned to work on Monday after their twelve-week run of strikes came to an end.

They plan to ballot for a new dispute but around substantially the same issues—shift patterns and pay.

The balloting process means weeks without strikes. Workers are angry at Unite union officials for an unnecessary and demoralising delay that gives bosses a chance for revenge.

## Stop privatisation of Bromley libraries

PROTESTERS WERE set to oppose the privatisation of all 14 libraries in Bromley, south London, on Wednesday of this week.

The Tory-run council executive was to discuss handing Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL) the contract.

GLL is the same firm that was handed libraries in nearby Lambeth, in a deal that saw some closed and turned into gyms with some books in them—against fierce local opposition.

This week's protest was called by the Unite union.

## Building anti-Tory mood in Barnsley

OVER 20 campaigners joined local trade unionists at Barnsley Trades Council's May Must Go protest in Barnsley last Saturday.

It followed on from a successful similar protest held in May in the run-up to the general election.

**HOMELESSNESS**

## Protest against vile Ukip councillors in Portsmouth

by JON WOODS

OVER 50 people demonstrated outside a Portsmouth City Council meeting on Tuesday of last week against a vile motion from Ukip councillors.

The motion described homeless people as "unwelcome detritus" and called on police to put them into special care whether

they want to go or not.

Homeless charity Crisis branded the comments "offensive and toxic".

Some of the homeless people who sleep rough in the Guildhall Square spoke on the megaphone. One said they never had a voice before. Another said that, underneath it all, we are all sisters and brothers.

We chanted, "Ukip out—homeless people in".



"UKIP OUT—homeless people in" protesters chanted in Portsmouth

PICTURE: JON WOODS

**JOBCENTRE WORKERS**

## Sheffield staff show how to beat DWP cuts

by NICK CLARK

WORKERS AT a jobcentre in Sheffield began their second week-long strike on Monday.

It follows a decision by the Tory government to push ahead with an attack on jobcentre workers and benefit claimants across Britain.

PCS union members at the Sheffield Eastern Avenue jobcentre are fighting to stop the closure of their office. It's just one of 74 jobcentres set to close across Britain next year.

### Attack

Tory minister Damian Hind confirmed the attack on Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) offices this month.

Clare Goonan, a PCS rep at Eastern Avenue, told Socialist Worker that the announcement had left workers demoralised.

"The majority of us here weren't feeling great," she said.

### SOLIDARITY

#### Help these workers win

- Join the picket line from 7.30am, 19 Eastern Avenue, Sheffield S2 2FZ
- Donate to PCS DWP Group, 3rd Floor, Town Centre House, Merrion Centre, Leeds LS2 8LY
- Send support messages to [Leeds@pcs.org.uk](mailto:Leeds@pcs.org.uk)

"Staff morale has gone down—there's been no consultation, they're just closing the office."

Clare explained that workers at Eastern Avenue will be relocated to another office if the closure goes ahead.

Many will have to cut their hours due to the time it will take to travel to their new workplaces. The move will also pile extra travel costs onto workers and claimants.

Clare said, "It's going to cost an extra £15-20 a week in

travel. It'll add about an hour on to the time it takes to get to work, which is too much for people who have to do things like the school run.

"For a single parent who normally walks to work, the extra travel cost is about £60 a month out of their wages."

### Solid

The strike was still solid despite the attack—with just three people out of 45 workers at the jobcentre going to work.

But to win, the action needs to spread. The closure in Sheffield is part of a national attack on DWP workers. A plan to take on the whole cuts programme can beat it back.

Hundreds of jobs could be lost at other jobcentres and DWP offices once the closures start next March.

At very least there should be strike ballots at other offices affected. But the best way to win is a ballot for nationwide strikes across the DWP.

**ANTI-RACISM**


## Standing with child refugees

PROTESTERS descended on Notts County Council at short notice on Monday as Tory councillors voted to cease support for child refugees.

Eve Leadbetter, who was brought up in Notts after escaping the Holocaust as a

child in the "Kindertransport" trains, addressed them.

The Tories used a procedure to suspend involvement in the scheme and say policy had not changed.

Disgusting behaviour!

**Richard Buckwell**

**CINEMA WORKERS**

## Action for axed reps

DAILY PROTESTS outside the Ritzy Picturehouse cinema in Brixton are calling for people to boycott the cinema, its bar and other cinemas in the chain. This follows the sacking of three Bectu union reps and a fourth awaiting a disciplinary hearing.

Picturehouse workers have fought a long dispute for the Living Wage but owners Cineworld refuse to pay it in spite of grossly large profits.

Solidarity and support for the boycott can help them win and inspire other workers.

**Hector Sierra**

**POST WORKERS**

## Royal Mail 'heading for a dispute' on pension attack

LEADERS OF the CWU union have said they are certain to be heading for a dispute with Royal Mail over an attack on postal workers' pensions.

Royal Mail bosses want to close workers' defined benefits pension scheme. That could steal thousands of pounds from pensions every year.

They want to replace it with an option of either a defined contribution or a cash balance scheme. These both leave the amount a retired worker gets each year at the mercy of the market.

It's part of a massive attack on postal workers'

pensions, pay and conditions planned by Royal Mail bosses.

The managers' union Unite is balloting its members on the pension offer, describing it as "the best achievable".

But the CWU rejected it. Deputy general secretary Terry Pullinger said last week, "We are heading for dispute, I don't think there is any doubt about it."

CWU members voted for possible strikes over the attack at their conference in April—and there could be national strikes over the attack in autumn.

**ANTI-FRACKING**

## United protest shuts site

by AUDREY GLOVER

Lancaster and Morecambe TUC told Socialist Worker, "I am absolutely opposed to fracking. Direct action is the only way to stop it."

Sally Laver from Lancaster and Morecambe Pensioners Action Group said, "This is important for everyone as we hope more people live to become pensioners."

### Burning

"This is less likely with climate change, fracking and continued burning of fossil fuels. It is important we keep the protest going with mass demonstrations every week."

Eric Jones, chair of Lancaster Unite, said, "We are having to meet here because our democracy doesn't work. My elected representatives voted not to allow fracking in Lancashire."

Their decision was overturned by a government minister who was not elected by the people of Lancashire. An example of democracy for the few and not the many."



Protester in Lancashire

## EDUCATION

# Parents march to resist Tory school funding cuts

by SADIE ROBINSON

**HUNDREDS OF** parents, children, teachers and others marched in London against school cuts last Sunday.

Up to 1,000 people took part in the Carnival Against Cuts, organised by the Fair Funding For All Schools group and supported by teachers' unions.

Marchers demanded that Theresa May scrap her plan to slash £3 billion from schools every year by 2020.

Michelle told Socialist Worker, "My son's school is already under severe budget restraints.

"It's heartless to say they should cut more. The school could have to lose more teaching assistants. There's a drama therapist who will have to go too."

"It's heartbreaking."

**Scary**

Columbine, another parent, agreed. "It's a really scary situation," she told Socialist Worker. "They have been cutting for the last seven years with all the austerity."

"Schools are on their knees."

Some of those marching had joined strikes against cuts, including Jill and Becky. They are teaching assistants in the Unison union in Derby.

"People have to listen to us," said Becky. "Kids' education is too important to be messed around with."

Jill said



Sue (left) and John—"We could lose 21 teachers"



CHILDREN AND teachers joined the march

PICTURES: SOCIALIST WORKER

attacks on pay had forced some experienced school workers out of the profession. "It's damaging education," she said.

"We've had a 25 percent pay cut. There are people having to sell their homes and downsize just to make ends meet."

"We shouldn't have to do that. And we know the money's there—the Tories have just given £1 billion to the DUP."

Other marchers also spoke of the stress of working in schools and the impact of cuts on children.

Teacher Sue told Socialist Worker, "I work in an inner London school and we could lose up to 21 teachers by 2021."

"I want to protect funding so that children get the best chance in life."

Sue leaves for work at 6.30 in the morning and then has to work when she gets home too, her partner John explained.

Sue said high workloads, which will get worse if the

cuts go through, are driving teachers to leave. "I don't blame them," she said. "You have to suspend your own life to be a teacher."

The protest was backed by the NUT, ATL, NAHT and Unison unions.

**Chanted**

Marchers chanted, "Hey, hey Theresa May—how many schools have you cut today?" as it made its way to Parliament Square from Whitehall Gardens.



Jill (right) and Becky—"Kids' education is too important to mess about with"

## ACADEMISATION

## The lesson from Ealing is that by fighting back it's possible to win

**STRIKES AT** a primary school in Ealing, west London, have scored a significant victory in a battle against academies.

NUT union members at Drayton Green primary school took five days of strikes against the possibility of their school being turned into an academy.

Last week a governors' meeting agreed that any changes to the school's status will be delayed and

have to be agreed by trade unions and parents' groups.

The chair of governors, who had been key to pushing academisation, resigned.

This is a result of teachers organising to strike, Ealing NUT branch secretary Stefan Simms explained.

"At first union members were reluctant to strike," he said.

"In primary schools teachers often feel very protective of children and

they feel pressure not to strike. At the beginning of this dispute they would likely have settled for far less."

"But the governing body wouldn't negotiate and wouldn't budge."

"They were arrogant and inflamed the situation. So we had five days of strikes—no primary school in Ealing's history has ever done that."

Stefan said speaking to parents was key to the dispute too. Several

public meetings saw a majority of parents oppose academisation.

He also described the impact that fighting back had on workers. "Once teachers were on strike, they didn't need any more encouragement," he said.

"They had changed. It took a lot of gentle persuasion but then whoosh—away they went."

Some in the unions are pessimistic about the

potential to fight attacks on education and on teachers. They sometimes argue that there isn't a mood to fight. But Ealing has shown that this mood can be built—where there's a will to do it.

"We have blocked three schools from converting to academy status in Ealing now," said Stefan. "We've shown academies can be stopped. It's a good lesson for schools in other areas facing academy threats."

## FIGHTING THE CUTS

Get on with it, Rees, and name a day for protests

by RAYMIE KIERNAN

ANTI-CUTS campaigners in Bristol were set to lobby the Labour-run council on Tuesday night to call a national lobby of parliament against council funding cuts.

After the general election mayor Marvin Rees said, "I will be asking the UK's other

Bristol mayor Marvin Rees

major cities to join me in taking an argument to the new government for a fairer, more sustainable deal for our cities."

Campaigners want him to "quickly set the date for the lobby of parliament".

Tuesday's protest takes place during the council's 12-week "consultation" about what services to cut next.

Angry library campaigners point out that, "all of the options it offers would result in the withdrawal of funding from 17 libraries" out of 27.

To cut another £5 million Rees' administration could also axe school crossing patrols and public toilets. It committed itself in a vote just a few months ago to budget cuts of over £100 million.

Rees is right to call for more funding—so when is his lobby going to happen?

And if Rees really wants to hit back he should defy the Tories and say he cannot and will not impose these devastating cuts.

## TRANSPORT

## A conflict at Cockfosters

LONDON TUBE bosses have seized on safety concerns raised by union members as an excuse to attack workers' conditions.

RMT union members working for Tube Lines were set to begin action short of a strike next Tuesday at the Northfields and Cockfosters Piccadilly Line workshops.

Extra work has been planned in a way that RMT says rips up agreements and threatens job security.

# RESIST SCHOOL FUNDING CUTS

by SADIE ROBINSON

**TORY EDUCATION** secretary Justine Greening confirmed this week that schools across England face real terms funding cuts.

But she didn't put it like that.

Instead she declared on Monday that schools will get an extra £1.3 billion over two years.

But there is no "extra" cash. Instead the money will come from "efficiencies" made in the Department for Education (DfE).

A joint union statement signed by the NUT, ATL, GMB and Unison general secretaries condemned the announcement as "a return to smoke and mirrors".

It said schools would still be making "huge cuts" and inflation would make most schools "significantly worse off in real terms".

Some £280 million is set to be cut from the free schools budget—a good thing.

But it's nothing compared to the £9.7 billion the National Audit Office (NAO) said the free schools project

will have cost by 2021.

The DfE also plans to cut £420 million from schools' capital budget.

But this needs more money, not less.

An NAO report in February found school buildings in

desperate need of repair.

The government estimated that it would cost £6.7 billion to restore them all to a satisfactory or better condition.

And the Tories remain committed to bringing in their "national funding

formula" by 2018.

If unchanged, it will see the overwhelming majority of schools worse off.

Theresa May had previously pledged £4 billion for schools by 2022 in the Tory manifesto.

The Institute for Fiscal Studies said school funding would fall by nearly 3 percent by 2021—even with that £4 billion.

This is because of growing student numbers, inflation and previous cuts.

The Education Policy Institute also said that Tory plans would cut school funding in real terms.

General secretary of the NUT Kevin Courtney said at the time, "They are actually promising to give only £1 billion per year."

"Which is clearly not enough when schools are facing a £3 billion real terms cut in their funding."

## Worse

Greening's announcement is even worse than that.

The Tories claim that no school will lose out. They have repeated this lie over and over as they have fought to make cuts.

Schools have already lost out as heads plan cuts to deal with inadequate funding.

Unions, parents and other activists must redouble the fight to stop the cuts and defend education.

**March to fight funding cuts >>> turn to page 19**

## More online

For a longer version, go to [bit.ly/2vcNaDi](http://bit.ly/2vcNaDi)



ON THE march for better education last weekend

PICTURE: DAVE GILCHRIST

## RAIL

# United national action can derail Tory assault on train unions and safety

by RAYMIE KIERNAN

WORKERS have announced fresh strikes that will shut down the Southern rail network.

The Aslef and RMT unions have called strikes for 1, 2 and 4 August.

They are not only over pay. The Tory plot to undermine safety and stoke a long-running battle on Southern is the backdrop to the walkouts.

The government hit Govia Thameslink Railway with a £13.4 million fine for its poor Southern service last week—but only because a High Court

judge ordered it to.

The Department for Transport (DfT) had refused to act for over a year.

It will use the fine to fund "improvements", including 50 on-board supervisors.

This is the role imposed on Southern train guards that provoked strikes in the first place. Govia is unsurprisingly "pleased".

The firm said the Gibb Report showed that "industrial action" is the main reason for Southern's poor service.

The Gibb Report was written by former Virgin Trains executive Chris

Gibb. His consultancy firm CLGR Limited was "contracted to Govia Thameslink Railway, as facilitated by the DfT" he admitted in the report.

Tory rail minister Paul Maynard said the team that assessed Govia is "within the command" of top DfT official Peter Wilkinson.

Wilkinson is in charge of rail franchising.

When Govia was awarded the contract, he owned a large share in a consultancy that was advising the firm.

The Tories' determination to drive through driver only

operation (DOO) is provoking more disputes.

Train guards and driver members of the RMT union at Abellio plan to ballot for action. Greater Anglia bosses have failed to give a guarantee on the role of the guard throughout the length of the franchise.

On the South West franchise new consortium First MTR has refused to honour a written commitment not to extend DOO or threaten guards' jobs and roles.

Rail unions must coordinate all these disputes into a national fight.



Workers protest against attacks on safety last year

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN